

An Overview of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion For those Leaders and Team Members New to the RCIA Ministry

– By Ms. Sharon A. Bogusz

Among the ritual celebrations marking the faith journey of one progressing through the RCIA stands the Rite of Election.

The **Rite of Election** (sometimes known as the Enrollment of Names) closes the lengthy period of initiatory formation for those men, women and children seeking new life in Christ within the Catholic community. Ordinarily coinciding with the opening of Lent, the Rite of Election marks the “ritual step” into an even more intense period of formation for the celebration of the Easter sacraments of initiation.



Discerning readiness for the Easter sacraments serves as a semi-assessment of the catechumens’ observable change of heart and life. “Sufficiently acquainted” with the Christian way of life and the teaching of the Church, the catechumen begins to translate faith teaching into faith believing and living. It is upon this evidence of the first kernels of Christian discipleship that the catechumens’ “election by God” is founded and the Church acts to accept new believers (RCIA, 118-128).

God calls all people to ongoing growth in holiness. **The Call to Continuing Conversion** celebrates ritually the process by which men, women and children validly baptized in another Christian Church seek to share in a fuller expression of God’s Church. “Through the experience of worship, daily life and service in the parish community the candidates deepen their appreciation of the Church’s tradition and universal character” (RCIA, 435).

Sending of the Catechumens for Election (and recognition of the candidates): When the catechumens and candidates are ready to respond totally to God’s call to the Catholic Church the parish community prepares them for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion by ritually sending them to the Archbishop with the assurance of their prayers, care and support (See RCIA, 106-110 for more information on how to celebrate the Rite of Sending of catechumens and RCIA, 434-ff for the Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop in your parish).

For more resources on the RCIA Ministry for Adults please contact us at me at:
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