



Diocese of Scranton
Office for Parish Life
570.207.2213 x1119

January 2018

Christian Initiation Coordinator Memo Important Information

Below please find important dates for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion for 2018. Please take the time to read through this information carefully. **This will be the only electronic communication prior to registration.**

- January 29, 2018 All Names of Catechumens and Candidates for *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* should be submitted by this date
- February 18, 2018 *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates*, Cathedral of Saint Peter, 2:30 PM
(Please note the change in time from previous years.)
- April 27, 2018 All names of Baptized Catholics receiving Confirmation from Bishop Bambera at the Cathedral of Saint Peter should be submitted by this date.
- May 20, 2018 Pentecost Adult Confirmation, Cathedral of Saint Peter, 10:00 AM

Those individuals who will be baptized as well as those who will be admitted into full communion with the Catholic Church are invited to be present for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

Catechumens, Godparents, Parish Coordinators, Candidates and Sponsors should arrive at the Cathedral **thirty minutes before the start of the celebration.**

Rite of Election

All Pastors are expected to send **Adult Catechumens**, those who have completed their 18th year and older, to the Cathedral for the *Rite of Election*. Participation in the *Rite of Election* by those 18 years of age and younger is optional (see RCIA, 227)

- ❖ Each parish is encouraged to provide the *Rite of Sending* for catechumens and candidates prior to the *Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates*. While the candidates will not be called by name at the Cathedral (only by Parish), the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* allows for the candidates to be called by name during a separate Rite in the parish. (Please refer to Ritual #537 and #540, "Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop.")
- ❖ Please remember that **this is a Liturgy of the Word**, not a Eucharistic celebration. Attendance at the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* does not fulfill the Sunday obligation.
- ❖ The solemnity of this occasion, the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* should be reflected in the choice of attire. Recreational attire is not appropriate.
- ❖ Arrangements have been made for the parking lot on the Linden Street side of the Cathedral to be open at 1:00 PM that day. The parking lot between the Chancery and the Diocesan Pastoral Center on Wyoming Avenue will also be available for parking.
- ❖ **ONLY** Coordinators who have catechumens report to the Diocesan Pastoral Center by 1:45 PM for a review of the procedure for the presentation of names during the Rite. **(Please note the change in time from previous years.)** If you have NO catechumens, you may go directly to the Cathedral. **It is not necessary for the Catechumens themselves to come to the Diocesan Pastoral Center; they may go directly to the Cathedral.**
- ❖ Please bring with you your copy of the "Script" that was mailed to you for the purpose of presenting the Catechumens' to the Bishop.

Seating

- ❖ There will be reserved seating for the catechumens and their godparents. Diocesan Staff will be happy to assist them.
- ❖ The godparent is to sit beside the catechumen.
- ❖ Candidates and their sponsors, family members and RCIA team members may sit anywhere behind the reserved section.
- ❖ The sponsor of the candidate will sit beside the candidate.
- ❖ Priests may sit with their catechumens or candidates.
- ❖ Coordinators who will be presenting catechumens to the Bishop will have a reserved seat in the Sanctuary, led there by the master of ceremonies.
- ❖ **There will be reserved seating for wheelchair users and deaf catechumens. Please indicate special needs on the catechumen form.**

Book of the Elect

- ❖ The signing of the Book of the Elect is indicative of Election for Baptism; therefore, the already baptized do not sign it.
- ❖ **The Book of the Elect is signed as part of the ceremony. It is not signed prior to the Rite of Election.**
- ❖ Those who will have catechumens needing to sign the Book of the Elect will need to provide parish Book of the Elect.

Calling of Names

- ❖ **Coordinators, if you have catechumens, you will be the person to present the name(s) of your catechumens to the Bishop. If you are not comfortable with this role, please designate a person in your place.**
- ❖ Coordinators who have catechumens report to the Diocesan Pastoral Center by 1:45 PM for a review of the procedure for the presentation of names during the Rite. If you have NO catechumens, you may go directly to the Cathedral. **(Please note the change in time from previous years.)**
- ❖ You will be in the entrance procession, carrying the Book of the Elect.
- ❖ You will have a reserved seat in the Sanctuary, led there by a master of ceremonies.
- ❖ If a baptized Catholic is being confirmed at the Easter Vigil through faculties granted to the pastor by the Bishop, that person, if in attendance at the Rite of Election, will stand with the rest of the Candidates when the name of the parish is called.
- ❖ If a baptized Catholic is to receive Confirmation from the Bishop on Pentecost Sunday, he/she does not stand with the rest of the candidates when the parish is called.

Registration

- ❖ All information with regard to the 2017 *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* will be handled electronically.
- ❖ Complete and submit the Parish Participation Form on the Diocesan Website under Parish Life and Mass Times/Christian Initiation Resources (Use the same Participation Form for both Catechumens and Candidates.)
- ❖ After submitting the forms, expect to receive an email confirming that the Office for Parish Life has received your forms.

Please register online no later than January 29, 2018

Reminders

- ❖ All information with regard to the 2018 *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* will be handled electronically.
- ❖ The Call to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (not children) who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion. This Rite is also appropriate

for adult Catholics who are baptized but uncatechized. In this second case, the faculty to confirm must be sought from the diocesan bishop. (*refer to "Sample letter requesting faculties".*)

- ❖ Please share this information with your catechumens and candidates.
- ❖ Catechumens, Godparents, Parish Coordinators, Candidates and Sponsors should arrive at the Cathedral **thirty minutes before the start of the celebration.**

