



DIOCESE OF LANSING
M I C H I G A N

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Dear Parish Christian Initiation Directors,

These notes are intended to assist you and your parish as you prepare for the *Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion*.

- 1) The Bishop will sign the *Book(s) of the Elect* immediately after the Elect depart the sanctuary. This is more in harmony with the very nature of the rite. Only catechumens (the unbaptized) should sign your parish's *Book of the Elect*.
- 2) The sites, dates, times and parish assignments for the three celebrations are found at the bottom of the Parish Response Form, located here:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8ca4d5fab84440abab9cbbe6f5abaf08>
- 3) The form linked above should be returned to the Office of Worship no later than **February 4th**. I understand that you may still be conducting interviews to discern readiness; please provide the name even if there is a possibility they will not be present (and note that).
- 4) Numbers: please plan on bringing catechumens, candidates, and their sponsors. As soon as we get a sense of those totals, the Office of Worship will let you know how many family members and friends can attend.

Please submit the form even if you have no one in formation this year.

Additional Notes for the Parish Director

Please arrive one hour before the liturgy for a ten-minute rehearsal. Then we will dismiss you so that you might *check in* the catechumens and candidates. Please be prompt.

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The directors will sit in a reserved section, but will not be part of the entrance procession this year.

There will be no reserved seating, except for persons with disabilities and Initiation Directors. We want to give the feel of a greater church calling the catechumens and candidates forward. While they may feel more comfortable sitting together, they may also make new acquaintances and share stories with folks from other parishes.

Please bring your parish's *Book of the Elect*. The names/signatures of the catechumens (only) should already appear in it. These may be formally entered at the parish Rite of Sending (RCIA nos. 106–117 or 434–445).

A sheet, listing just the catechumens' names, may be read by the director during the Call to Continuing Conversion. A separate sheet, listing just the candidates' names, may be read by the director during the Call to Continuing Conversion. Please bring these with you to the Rite.

Name tags for catechumens and candidates will be the responsibility of the Office of Worship. Each director should submit these names in the form linked above—again, no later than **February 12th**.

Children of catechetical age (catechumens and candidates) are welcome to participate in this ritual. Younger children, usually younger than seven, are baptized according to the *Order of Baptism of Children* and are not part of the catechumenate. They should not participate in this rite. Nor should confirmation candidates, already baptized and receiving the Eucharist, be part of this celebration. A parish-centered celebration for these later groups would be more appropriate.

Thank you for all you do to build up the Kingdom. Please do not hesitate to call or email the Office of Worship with any questions.

A Summary of the Responses within the Rite of Election

Sponsors as they testify to the catechumens' readiness:	"They have." (3 x)
Affirmation of the Assembly	"We are."
Catechumens, in response to Do you wish...	"I do."
After the bishop declares them to be members of the Elect	"Thanks be to God."

A Summary of the Responses within the Call to Continuing Conversion

Sponsors testify to the candidates' readiness:	"They have." (4x)
Affirmation of the Assembly:	"We are."
Candidates respond to the bishop:	"I am." "I will." "Thanks be to God."

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