

Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

Office of Worship

November 21, 2019

Dear Pastors and/or RCIA Coordinators,

You and your parish catechumens, candidates, and families are invited to the **Diocesan Rite of Election, Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Burlington**. This invitation includes unbaptized children of catechetical age involved in your initiation process. The liturgy will NOT include the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Rite of Election is part of the regular course of ritual celebrations for those adults seeking full initiation into the Church (those who are not baptized) and their sponsors (or a sponsor proxy); therefore, participation in the the Rite of Election of catechumens age 18 and above is required and attendance should not be excused lightly. Attendance is also highly encouraged, but not required, for children of catechetical age seeking full initiation or candidates *already baptized* seeking full communion in the Catholic Church. **Please share the date early with any catechumens and candidates with whom you may be working.** Additionally, if sending catechumens or candidates for full communion, please be sure to also send a parish representative that can present the catechumens and candidates to the Bishop during the celebration.

It is recommended that parishes use the ritual, "Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition," (RCIA Ritual Book, #530-546) at a parish Mass on Sunday morning, February 23 or March 1. Those parishes who have only catechumens or only candidates should use the appropriate Rite of Sending for their situation (RCIA Ritual Book, #106-117 if you are celebrating only with catechumens or #434-445 if you are celebrating only with candidates).

Each parish should have their own Book of the Elect; **please bring the Book of the Elect, already completed with the necessary information for this year, to the Rite of Election.** The book will NOT be ritually signed by the catechumens during the Rite of Election. Rather, catechumens can inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect as part of the Rite of Sending described above. Please remember: only catechumens are included in the Book of Elect. The names of candidates already baptized should not be placed in the Book of the Elect.

Please fill out the enclosed form so we can plan for the correct number of people who will attend and reserve the correct number of pews for your group. Additional information about this year's Rite of Election will be sent to those who register using the enclosed registration form. **Please note the registration deadline is Friday, February 21.** Seating charts and details about the liturgy will be sent to participating parishes beginning on Monday, February 24, 2020. If you haven't received this information by Wednesday, February 26, please contact the Office of Worship at 802-658-6110 x1460 or email jperry@vermontcatholic.org.

Sincerely,

Josh Perry
Office of Worship
Diocese of Burlington