

Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

Office of Worship

January 13, 2021

Dear Pastors and/or RCIA Coordinators,

You and your parish catechumens, candidates, and families are invited to the **Diocesan Rite of Election, Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Burlington. This is on the Second Sunday of Lent.** This invitation includes unbaptized children of catechetical age involved in your initiation process. The liturgy will NOT include the celebration of the Eucharist.

In a typical year, participation in the Rite of Election of catechumens age 18 and above is required. Attendance is also encouraged, but not required, for children of catechetical age seeking full initiation or candidates *already baptized* seeking full communion in the Catholic Church. **This year, because of the Covid pandemic, we are not requiring the presence of catechumens or candidates, especially those with underlying issues that put them at an increased risk of having complications from Covid, or those who care for or live with such individuals. We ask that pastors please make prudential judgment in collaboration with your catechumens and candidates as to their attendance at the Rite of Election.** If sending catechumens or candidates to the Rite of Election, 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 14 or 21. 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 19.** Seating charts and details about the liturgy will be sent to participating parishes beginning on Monday, February 22, 2021. If you haven't received this information by Wednesday, February 24, please contact the Office of Worship at 802-658-6110 x1460 or email jperry@vermontcatholic.org.

Sincerely,

Josh Perry
Office of Worship