

Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

Office of Worship

October 27, 2023

Dear Pastors and/or RCIA Coordinators,

You and your parish catechumens, candidates, and families are invited to the **Diocesan Rite of Election, Sunday, February 18, 2024 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.

Please be aware of the following:

1. 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 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.**
2. **The attendance of a sponsor (or proxy) is also required** when catechumens or candidates participate in the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion.
3. **Additionally, please be sure to also send a parish representative that can present the catechumens and candidates to the celebrant during the celebration.** This can be the priest/deacon of the parish, the PCL, a catechist or even a sponsor who also serves on the RCIA team.

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 which takes place prior to the Rite of Election in the parish. 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 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 9**. Seating charts and details about the liturgy will be sent to participating parishes beginning on Monday, February 12, 2023. If you haven't received this information by Wednesday, February 14, 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