

Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates

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Session #7

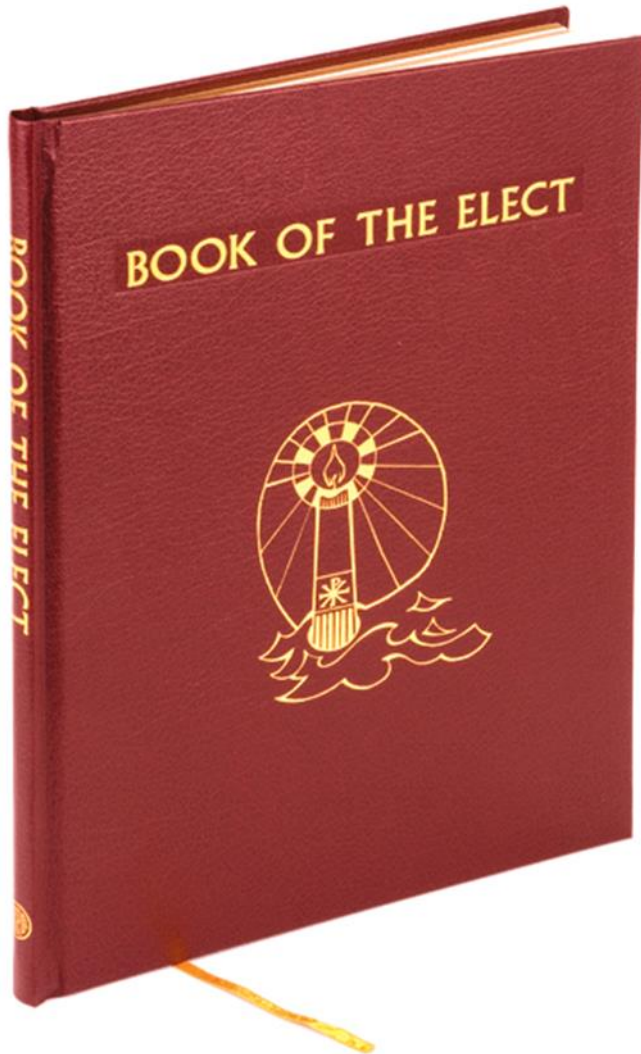
Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop

- ▶ The Rite of Sending is optional (RCIA 530) but recommended for parishes. The Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion is not optional.
- ▶ The Rite of Sending is designed for the parish community to recognize and affirm RCIA participants as they prepare for the last period of their formation.
- ▶ A parish Mass the week before the Rite Election of is the ideal occasion for this Rite.
- ▶ The Combined Rites for catechumens and candidates (RCIA 536 - 546) is most often used, but if there are only catechumens, then RCIA 106 - 117 is implemented. If there are only candidates, RCIA 540 - 546 applies to them.

Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion

- ▶ Ash Wednesday - March 2, 2022
- ▶ **Rites of Election - Weekend of March 6 and 7, 2022**
- ▶ Rite of Election Training - Saturday, February 5, 2022
- ▶ You will receive an email in January 2022 regarding the numbers of your catechumens and candidates to participate in the Rites.
- ▶ If you don't receive this January email, contact Grace Rodriguez at 210.734.1643 or grace.rodriguez@archsa.org

What is the Book of the Elect?



- ▶ It is an ancient practice of the Church to inscribe the names of those who have been chosen (elected) for baptism. These are the catechumens.
- ▶ The names of those in the Book of the Elect have agreed to prepare to become members of “the household of God” through baptism.
- ▶ All those validly baptized (candidates) are already part of “the household of God” by virtue of that baptism. This is why they do not sign the Book of the Elect.
- ▶ Please have all the names of the catechumens inscribed in the Book of the Elect **before** coming to the Rite of Election.
- ▶ The presiding Bishop will sign the Book of the Elect during the Rite as testimony of the election.

Outline of the Rite (outside of Mass)

▶ INTRODUCTORY RITES

Welcoming & Processional Hymn

Greeting

Collect

▶ LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading & Responsorial Psalm

Homily

Gospel

▶ CELEBRATION OF ELECTION

Presentation of the Catechumens

Affirmation by Godparents & Assembly

Invitation and Enrollment of Names

Act of Admission or Election

▶ CELEBRATION OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

Presentation of the Candidates

Affirmation by Sponsors & Assembly

Act of Recognition

Meditation Song

Intercessions for the Elect and Candidates

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer over the Elect and Candidates

Dismissal and Recessional Hymn

Discussion Questions:

- ▶ What role do you think godparents might play in the discernment before the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion?
- ▶ Why does the Bishop preside at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion?
- ▶ Why do you think a couple baptized as Catholics who are in a civil marriage (their only marriage) must be married in the Church first before they can complete their initiation?