RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF CANDIDATES

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

Notes:

- The rite is celebrated within Mass, after the homily, and should be celebrated within the Mass of the First Sunday of Lent. When celebrated outside Mass, the rite takes place after the readings and the homily and is concluded with the dismissal of both the elect and the faithful (RCIA §128).
- Use the Ritual Mass for the Election or Enrollment of Names.
- The celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion for candidates (baptized) is optional.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

According to the Lectionary for Mass paragraph no. 744, concerning the Rite of Election, “If this is done on the first Sunday of Lent, the readings of any series in the three-year cycle of readings for this Sunday may be used.” However, the readings for the Scrutinies are always taken from Year A.

Year C: Sunday Cycle Readings:

First Reading: Dt 26:4-10
Respensorial Psalm: Ps 91:1-2, 10-15
Second Reading: Rom 10:8-13
Gospel: Lk 4:1-13

Homily

CELEBRATION OF ELECTION

Presentation of the Catechumens

After the homily, an RCIA Coordinator, deacon, catechist, or representative of the community, presents the catechumens, using the following or similar words.

Father, Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom we now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and the support of prayer and example in our parish community.
Now they ask that after the celebration of the scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

**Pastor:** Those who are to be chosen in Christ, come forward, together with your godparents.

One by one, the catechumens and godparents are called by name. When their name is called, each catechumen, together with their godparent, stands (and remains standing).

*Affirmation by the Godparents and the Assembly*

Then the celebrant addresses the assembly.

**Pastor:** God's Holy Church wishes to know whether these catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter. And so I speak first of all to you their godparents.

Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?

Godparents: They have.

**Pastor:** Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?

Godparents: They have.

**Pastor:** Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?

Godparents: They have.

**Pastor:** And now I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

Assembly: We are.

*Invitation and Enrollment of Names*

Then addressing the catechumens in the following or similar words, the celebrant advises them...
of their acceptance and asks them to declare their own intention.

**Pastor:** And now, my dear catechumens, I address you. Your own godparents and teachers and this entire community have spoken in your favor. The Church in the name of Christ accepts their judgment and calls you to the Easter sacraments.

Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that call clearly and in the presence of the whole Church.

Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist?

**Catechumens:** We do.

**Pastor:** Then offer your names for enrollment.

The RCIA Coordinator (or delegate) stand by the “Book of the Elect” (paper that will go into the Bishop’s Book of the Elect) and direct the catechumens where to sign. The catechumens (*not the godparents*) inscribe their names on the prepared sheet of paper which, after the celebration, will be sent to the Diocesan Office of Worship for inclusion in the Book of the Elect.

Consider having a cup full of clean pens, and instruct the catechumen to place their used pen in a separate cup after signing. You may wish to provide hand sanitizer.

*Act of Election*

**Pastor:** Dear catechumens, I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

God is always faithful to those he calls; now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to God in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your election opens up before you.

Godparents, you have spoken in favor of these catechumens: accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.
CELEBRATION OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

Presentation of the Candidates

The one in charge of the candidates’ formation (RCIA Coordinator, deacon, catechist, or a representative of the community) presents the candidates, using the following or similar words.

Father, I now present to you the candidates who are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They too have found strength in God's grace and support in our community’s prayer and example.

Now they ask that after this Lenten season, they be admitted to full membership in the Catholic faith through the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Pastor: Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, and their sponsors, please stand when your name is called.

One by one, the candidates are called by name. Each candidate, together with their sponsor, stands where they are (and remains standing).

Affirmation by the Sponsors and Assembly

Pastor: The Christian life and the demands that flow from the sacraments cannot be taken lightly. Therefore, before granting these candidates their request to share fully in the Church's sacraments, it is important that the Church hear the testimony of their sponsors about their readiness.

Pastor addresses the sponsors:

Pastor: Have the candidates faithfully listened to the apostles' instruction proclaimed by the Church?

Sponsors: They have.

Pastor: Have they come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism, in which they were joined to Christ and His Church?

Sponsors: They have.

Pastor: Have they reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church, which is their heritage, and joined their brothers and sisters in prayer?
Sponsors: They have.

Pastor: Have they advanced in a life of love and service of others?

Sponsors: They have.

Pastor: And now I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly.

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these candidates and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

Assembly: We are.

Act of Recognition

Pastor: Candidates assembled here, the Church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table. Join with us this Lent in a spirit of repentance. Hear the Lord's call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant.

Sponsors, continue to support these candidates with your guidance and concern. May they see in you a love for the Church and a sincere desire for doing good. Lead them this Lent to the joys of the Easter mysteries.

Intercessions for the Elect and Candidates

The celebrant may adapt the introduction and intentions to fit various circumstances. Options for intercessions may be found in RCIA §558.

Pastor: At this time, I invite everyone to stand.

Pause until everyone is up.

Godparents and sponsors, as an expression of your concern, I invite you to extend your hand over the person you are sponsoring as we pray for them.

In beginning this period of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's
suffering, death, and resurrection. These elect and candidates, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, will look to us for an example of Christian renewal. Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by one another's effort and together come to share the joys of Easter.

Lector will offer the intercessions.

Lector: That together we may fruitfully employ this Lenten season to renew ourselves through self-denial and works of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

(If there are catechumens:)

That our catechumens may always remember this day of their election and be grateful for the blessings they have received from Heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

(If there are candidates:)

That our candidates preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist may grow daily in fidelity to their baptismal covenant, let us pray to the Lord. R./

That their teachers may always convey the beauty of God’s word to those who search for it, let us pray to the Lord. R./

That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord. R./

That their families may help them to follow the promptings of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. R./

That our community, during this Lenten period, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord. R./

That those who have not yet overcome their hesitation may trust in Christ and come to join our community as our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord. R./

Prayer over the Elect and Candidates

After the intercessions, stretch out your hands over the elect and the candidates and pray the following. Additional options may be found in RCIA §559 for both elect and candidates, RCIA §135 for elect alone, and RCIA §456 for candidates alone.

Pastor: Lord God, you created the human race and are the author of
its renewal.

Bless all your adopted children and add these chosen ones to the harvest of your new covenant. As true children of the promise, may they rejoice in eternal life, achieved not by the power of nature, but through the mystery of your grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dismissal of the Elect

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by using the words below (or other options found in RCIA §560):

**Pastor:** My dear children, you have set out with us on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace.

If the elect are to stay for the celebration of the Eucharist:

**Pastor:** Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord’s Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God’s children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

If the Eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed with these words:

**Pastor:** Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

The Mass continues with the preparation of the gifts. Use the *Ritual Mass for the Election or Enrollment of Names*. 