



DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY

Office of Worship

CATECHESIS ABOUT THE RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION For Catechumens and Godparents, Candidates and Sponsors

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, which will be celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, marks the end of the catechumenate period, and begins the period of final of more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation for both Catechumens and Candidates for Full Initiation. This period is called the period of Purification and Enlightenment.

Up to this point, the Church has offered formation in the Catholic faith but has not made a final decision about the Catechumen's or Candidate's readiness for the initiation sacraments. The Church is now ready, officially and finally, to call them to the fullness of life with the Church this Easter.

Due to the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19, the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated by Pastors (instead of Bishop Nickless) in each parish this year on February 21, the First Sunday of Lent.

The Rite for catechumens is called "Election" because God elects or chooses them for the Sacraments of Initiation through the Church. From this point on, Catechumens will be known as "The Elect."

Candidates for Full Initiation do not receive another title. Since already baptized, they have already been elected to be part of God's holy people. Instead, they are called to continuing conversion, that is, to "put on" Catholic spirituality, doctrine, and faith in an even deeper way.

Please review the Rite of Election and familiarize your catechumens and candidates with the appropriate liturgical action and responses during the celebration of this rite. The Rite of Election may be celebrated, according to each Pastor's discretion, either during the Mass of the First Sunday of Lent, or outside of the Mass with an accompanying Liturgy of the Word on the First Sunday of Lent.