



Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

Decree Concerning the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Corona Virus (Covid-19) Pandemic and our attempts to limit infections and death through physical distancing and suspending the public celebration of the Eucharist interrupted our normal progression in celebrating the various rites of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The elect (catechumens) who were preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation and the candidates who were preparing for full communion with the Church were unable to do so. In addition, the elect (catechumens) were unable to celebrate the Second and Third Scrutinies. The longing of these individuals to know the regeneration of baptism or to be in full communion needs to be satisfied. I, therefore, decree the following:

- The Second and Third Scrutinies are hereby dispensed;¹ and if the First Scrutiny was not celebrated and cannot be before celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation, then contact Father Rob Spaulding from the Office of Worship.
- The Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), which normally would have been celebrated at the Easter Vigil, may be celebrated at the Pentecost Vigil, on Pentecost Sunday, or if necessary, on another Sunday as soon as the situation in the parish allows.²
- The *Celebration at the Easter Vigil of the Sacraments of Initiation and of the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church*, which is used at the Easter Vigil, may be used when the parish celebrates the initiation of the elect into the Church so that the elect and candidates for full communion are received at the same celebration.³

Please extend to those entering the Church and their families my deepest affections and the assurance of my prayers.

This decree is effective immediately and remains in force until December 31, 2020.

Given in Cheyenne, this May 14, 2020.

Most Rev. Steven R. Bigler, DD, STL
Bishop of Cheyenne

Jean M. Chrostoski
Chancellor

¹ *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, nn.20; 34, 3; and 331.

² *RCIA*, nn. 23; 24; 26; 27

³ See *RCIA*, nn. 562-594.