

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR  
*Office of Worship*

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1201 HUGHITT AVENUE      P.O. BOX 969      SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN 54880  
Phone: (715) 394-0233      e-mail: [pbirch@catholicdos.org](mailto:pbirch@catholicdos.org)      Fax: (715) 392-2015

TO: All Pastors, Parish Life Coordinators, Parish Directors and parish RCIA team leaders  
FROM: Paul Birch  
DATE: January 24, 2014  
RE:

**THE RITE OF ELECTION AND THE  
CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**  
**CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING**  
**SUPERIOR, WI**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016**  
3:00 p.m.

Once again we are approaching the time for our diocesan celebration of the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion. As usual, the liturgy takes place at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior on the First Sunday of Lent. This liturgy is an important one, in one way because—through our soon-to-be Bishop's presence—it shows our catechumens and candidates how they are linked beyond their local parish to the universal Church, which is exemplified by our particular Church of the Diocese of Superior.

**Both catechumens and candidates and their godparents/sponsors should attend**

This liturgy is especially important for our catechumens (the unbaptized) to attend because it is the formal beginning of their time of intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation. Through the testimony of their godparents, they are found worthy for "election" (which is founded on their election by God, in whose name the Church acts.) As a pledge of fidelity they inscribe their names in a book that lists those who have been chosen for election. (After this liturgy the catechumens are called "the elect.")

Attendance at this liturgy is also important for our candidates (the already baptized), because it is there that their sponsors and the community at large attest to their readiness for either the completion of their initiation sacraments and/or for their reception into the Church. Bishop-elect Powers formally recognizes their desire to be one with the Church, and prays for them and their journey of faith.

**Should Pastors, Parish Life Coordinators and Parish Directors attend?**

Because the liturgy includes calling the names of the catechumens (first) and the candidates (second), someone from the parish needs to be there to receive the pre-printed lists (located at the main entrances of the cathedral) and call the names at the appropriate times. It would be nice if the pastoral leader could be there for this, but the pastoral leader may delegate someone else to function in this way in their stead. (A member of the parish RCIA team could replace the pastoral leader if necessary.)

**Coffee and cathedral tours will be available before the liturgy, and there is a reception which follows**

The coffee will be on down in Kress Hall before the liturgy, and volunteers from the parish will be available upstairs for tours. Please plan on attending the reception following the liturgy which will also take place in Kress Hall. Light refreshments will be served, and Bishop will be there to greet the elect and candidates.

### **How do the names get on the lists that are called?**

Whoever is in charge of the RCIA at the parish level is asked to fill-out the front side of the enclosed registration form—which records the names of the catechumens and candidates from an individual parish whose names are to be called at the liturgy. Because the names are called-out by *parish* (not by *cluster*) we ask that you duplicate the form and send back one for each parish.

**To avoid duplication of effort, RCIA team leaders should be in communication with their pastoral leader as to who is completing and returning the form.** If you've misplaced your form, contact Paul Birch and he'll connect you with another one.

### **The reverse side of the form**

While the front contains the most important information, the back of the form also has questions we'd like you to try to answer, to help us with a head count for the reception, and to help us keep our parish RCIA contact information current.

### **The form needs to be returned to the chancery by Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

The names that get called out are also printed on a sheet that is inserted into the worship booklet as a keepsake. In order for all the names to be included on this sheet, all the forms need to be returned to the chancery no later than Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. You may mail them to Office of Worship 1201 Hughitt Avenue Superior, WI 54880, or you may fax them to 715-392-2015, or you may scan and e-mail them to [pbirch@catholicdos.org](mailto:pbirch@catholicdos.org).

### **What if the weather turns bad?**

**Due to the seasonal tendency toward inclement weather, the diocese has established an after-hours call-in number which may be used to find out if events have been cancelled due to dangerous travel conditions. Beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, dial 715-392-2937 and follow the prompts for "event cancellation" to confirm that the liturgy will take place as scheduled.**

### **We hope to see you there!**

It is indeed a long drive to Superior, and it is true that this is often not the most ideal time for travel, but hopefully all of our catechumens and candidates throughout the diocese, together with their godparents or sponsors and their parish pastoral leader or RCIA team leader, will be able to attend and joyfully participate in the celebration of this liturgy, together with Bishop-elect Powers.

There is something special that takes place when our diocesan family gets-together, this experience of Church is an opportunity which will both broaden and bless our catechumens, candidates and their families.



***Head-count for caterer:***

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Catechumens and Candidated from this parish to attend the reception..

\_\_\_\_\_ Approximate number of support people, family, and friends from this parish who will also attend the reception. **There are no limitations on number of support people to attend. All are welcome.**

***Please help us update our diocesan parish RCIA contact information, if applicable:***

Parish RCIA team leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish RCIA team member: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please check if applicable:***

\_\_\_\_\_ This year our parish does not have either catechumens or candidates who are ready for initiation or full communion in the church, but may in future years..

\_\_\_\_\_ At this time our parish does not have an active Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process in place.

\_\_\_\_\_ Our pastoral leadership needs assistance with implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in our parish.

\_\_\_\_\_ In particular, our ordained clergy is interested in receiving more training in the RCIA process.

***Additional Comments:***