

Liturgy Office

R.C. PASTORAL CENTRE
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February 3rd, 2010

Dear Christian Initiation Coordinator,

On the first Sunday of Lent, **February 21st, 2010**, the Rite of Election will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince Albert, by our Bishop Albert Thevenot at **4 o'clock** in the afternoon. We invite you to send the catechumens and candidates of your community who are to be baptized or received into full communion in the Catholic Church to the Rite of Election as well as their godparents and sponsors. After the ceremony, there will be a meal for the people attending this event in Salon Pascal on the lower level of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Each pastor of these catechumens and candidates is invited and most welcome to attend this Diocesan Liturgy. The godparents and sponsors of these catechumens and candidates, as well as the people involved in the RCIA process in your community are also invited. Other persons of your community and members of the catechumens and candidates families are also most welcome to attend.

At **3 o'clock** in the afternoon a **guided tour** will begin at the Cathedral. Should your group be interested in such a tour, please be there at that time, thank you.

Last August, at the Beginnings and Beyond Conference held in our Diocese, we thoroughly reviewed the Rite of Christian Initiation. Although the Liturgical Rite calls for only the Catechumens to attend the Rite of Election, Bishop Albert would like to continue to include both Catechumens and Candidates as we have in the past, slightly changing the celebration. This will keep the pastoral aspect of our Diocesan Celebrations.

During the course of the liturgy, the godparents of the Catechumens will present them to the Bishop. We ask that the godparent prepare a short sentence or two giving witness as to the readiness of the catechumen to be initiated at the Easter Vigil (please see example at the top of the next page). The Catechumens will join the Bishop in the Sanctuary and the godparent will return to their place.

Towards the end of the liturgy, the Bishop will call all the candidates and their sponsors to the foot of the altar for recognition and a special blessing.

We hope to see many of you February 21st at 4:00 pm at the Rite of Election. During this Lenten season, which is fast approaching, I hope you will experience the power of God's love revealed in the exhaustible mystery to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We would appreciate if the Godparents would consider using the following format to introduce their catechumen:

Your Excellency,

I would like to present to you _____, he/she has been journeying in the RCIA process for _____(length of time). _____(please name one characteristic about their faith life)_____ and I feel that they are ready to be initiated into the Catholic faith.

RITE OF SENDING CATECHUMENS / CANDIDATES

In order to link your community with the Diocesan event, we have proposed a parish celebration for sending catechumens to the Rite of Election and candidates for Recognition by the Bishop. The Ritual proposed for this celebration takes place on the first Sunday of Lent during Mass. A copy of this Ritual is included with this information package.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE THAT YOU PRE-REGISTER YOUR CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES.

To allow the organizers the opportunity to prepare well for this event, we would appreciate if you could mail the names of your catechumens (s) / candidates, the name of the Parish / Mission where they are from to: **Heidi Epp (306) 922-4747 by February 12th, 2010.**

Please be aware that this Celebration of the Rite of Election ***is not a Mass***, but rather in the context of a **Liturgy of the Word.**

Sincerely,

Rev. Maurice Fiolleau
Director of Liturgy
Heidi Epp
Liturgy Office Coordinator

On behalf of the RCIA committee

**REGISTRATION FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION
AND RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES**

Name of Parish and Deanery _____

Pastor _____

Please fill in the following information:

Name (specify Catechumen or Candidate) _____

Address _____

Godparent/Sponsor _____

Name (specify Catechumen or Candidate) _____

Address _____

Godparent/Sponsor _____

Name (specify Catechumen or Candidate) _____

Address _____

Godparent/Sponsor _____

Name (specify Catechumen or Candidate) _____

Address _____

Godparent/Sponsor _____

Name (specify Catechumen or Candidate) _____

Address _____

Godparent/Sponsor _____

Please phone, fax or mail this form to:

Heidi at the Chancery Office by February 12th, 2010