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Director

To: Pastors and Christian Initiation Ministers
From: Todd Williamson, Director of the Office for Divine Worship
Subject: Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, 2018
Date: December 18, 2018

NEW INFORMATION THIS YEAR

The annual celebrations of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion have been scheduled for **February 18th and 25th, 2018.**

Please Note the change: There are FOUR rites scheduled this year – not FIVE. There are two afternoon celebrations and two evening celebrations.

These are all the forms and information necessary for you to register your catechumens and candidates for the celebration of the Rite.

The registration forms are due on or before Monday, February 12, 2018.

Please download these forms, print them, fill them out and **mail them to the Office for Divine Worship.**

PLEASE DON'T EMAIL THEM

I am afraid of losing them in the spam filter, or having some other cyber-snap!
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Finally – please recall the memo sent to all pastors from the Vicar General, Fr. Ron Hicks, in August of 2016, regarding requesting delegation to confirm a *baptized, catechized* Catholic at the Easter Vigil. **Remember that NO DELEGATION for such will be given.**

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.



*2018 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion
Archdiocese of Chicago*

New this year, there are FOUR (no longer FIVE) scheduled celebrations of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion at **Holy Name Cathedral** (North State Street at Superior Street, Chicago) in 2018:

- Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The liturgies planned for Holy Name Cathedral are the combined celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates who are preparing for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church (RCIA #550-560). **Registration is due on or before Monday, February 12, 2018. Registration materials are enclosed.**

In the **Rite of Election**, catechumens (i.e., those who are not baptized) are formally called or chosen for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This calling or election is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts (RCIA #119).

In the **Call to Continuing Conversion** the Church welcomes those who are already baptized and are preparing to complete their initiation through both Confirmation and Eucharist and are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. The Church acknowledges their desire to be one with the Church in faith, prayer and service. Respecting the integrity of their baptism, the Church charges these candidates to use the Lenten season as a time to hear again the call to conversion and to be faithful to their baptismal vows. The Call to Continuing Conversion is an optional rite which is encouraged but not required of the candidates.

NOTE: This Rite is not appropriate for those Catholics who are baptized and already participate in Holy Communion. Nor is it appropriate for high school confirmation candidates. Baptized Catholics who have already received Holy Communion and who are preparing for the sacrament of confirmation are expected to celebrate this sacrament in their local parish community with a bishop presiding, or at one of the Vicariate celebrations of adult confirmation.

Parish ministers have the responsibility of making sure that those who are presented for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion are sufficiently prepared. The catechumens and candidates are expected to have undergone a conversion in mind and heart and to have a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching as well as a spirit of faith and charity (RCIA #120). Those involved in their preparation testify to their worthiness to receive the sacraments of initiation at this year's Easter Vigil.

Sponsors/Godparents:

Sponsors/Godparents are invited to join the catechumens and candidates for the celebrations held at the Cathedral. Accompanying their catechumen or candidate on the day of election the godparents exercise their ministry publicly for the first time. They give testimony on behalf of the catechumens and candidates before the community (RCIA #123). Godparents should be chosen on the basis of their Christian character and ability to give good example. It is the responsibility of godparents and sponsors to show catechumens and candidates how “to practice the Gospel in personal and social life, to sustain the candidates in moments of hesitancy and anxiety, to bear witness, and to guide the candidates’ progress in the baptismal life” (RCIA #11).

Children:

Children of catechumens or candidates, who are of catechetical age and are themselves catechumens or candidates, may accompany their parents to the Cathedral celebration. However, because the rites at the Cathedral are the adult rites, consideration should be given to bringing children who are catechumens or candidates but whose parents are not. Remember that the Rite provides a Rite of Election or Call to Continuing Conversion specifically adapted for children, which can be celebrated at the parish (RCIA # 277 – 290).

Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop:

Although the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion takes place at Holy Name Cathedral with the Bishop presiding, an individual parish may wish to celebrate the sending of catechumens and candidates to the Archdiocesan celebration by using the **Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop** (see RCIA #106-117 or #434-445 or #530-546). This optional rite offers the parish community the opportunity to express its approval of catechumens and candidates and send them forth to the celebration at the Cathedral assured of the parish’s care and support.

Book of the Elect:

All parishes are expected to bring their own Book of the Elect with them to the Cathedral. **Note:** It is most appropriate that ***only the Catechumens sign the Book of the Elect.*** Candidates, by virtue of their Christian Baptism, already have their names “inscribed in the Book of Life,” and are not considered as “Elect.” Catechumens should sign this book at the parish’s Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop. The Book of the Elect is then brought to the Archdiocesan celebration at the Cathedral.

After the names are read at the Cathedral the book will receive a special seal and then be returned immediately to the parish minister. It is expected that the same book will be used year after year.

CONFIRMATION OF BAPTIZED CATHOLICS

In order for a priest to **confirm a baptized Catholic at the Easter Vigil**, delegation must be granted for the validity of the sacrament. Priests **must** request delegation using the form provided by the Office for Canonical Services. Those forms will be available from the Office for Divine Worship or the Office for Canonical Services at the beginning of Lent.

Instructions for Registration

1. Complete and return the enclosed forms on or before Monday, February 20. On the forms, you will indicate your preference for service date and time. Your choice will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis. We regret that we will not be able to offer everyone their first choice. Therefore, it is important to indicate a **second** and **third** choice as well. ***If only one choice is marked, it will lengthen the time it will take to process your form, and it does not guarantee you your first choice.*** Due to the large number of parishes requesting the afternoon services, please assess carefully the number of seats needed for catechumens, candidates, sponsors, team members, and family members. **Confirmation will be made by email.**

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR FINAL PLANS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR DATE AND TIME.

2. **SEATING WILL BE ASSIGNED BASED ON THE DATE YOUR FORM IS RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP.**
**** Parishes may not reserve pews at the Cathedral. ****
3. If your parish is part of a combined catechumenate (two or more parishes working together), indicate this in the box on the registration form.
4. Note that the Cathedral has a 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday and so there may be some traffic congestion for those who arrive early for the 2:30 p.m. service.
5. Upon arrival at the Cathedral, a parish representative (not a candidate or catechumen) should proceed to the front of the Cathedral to check in and receive instructions for reading the names and presenting the Book of the Elect. **You will be reading only the names of those catechumens and candidates present at the celebration. Please bring your own list.** However, when completing the attached forms, please indicate the names of all the catechumens and candidates in your parish, so that we maintain an accurate count.
6. Please plan on being at the Cathedral at least 25 minutes prior to your service, so that you can check in and get your seat assignments.

**** FAXED forms CAN NOT be accepted. ****

*Registration for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion
2018*

Holy Name Cathedral

Parish: _____ Pastor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Parish Phone: _____

Catechumenate Director/Parish Contact Person: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

Email Address: _____

=====

Indicate your **first**, **second**, and **third** choices, and do not make final arrangements with your group until you have received confirmation of your date. NOTE: If only one choice is marked, it will lengthen the processing time of your form and does not guarantee you your first choice. Services are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

We would like to attend the Cathedral celebration on:

_____ Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.
Cardinal Blase Cupich

_____ Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Bishop Alberto Rojas

_____ Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.
Bishop John Manz

_____ Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Bishop George Rassas

<p>Parishes Participating in a Combined Catechumenate:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____ (Check here if these parishes will be attending together)</p>

Total Number Attending _____

[Includes catechumens, candidates, sponsors, parish ministers, family members, etc.]

****Return this registration along with the names of catechumens and candidates on or before Monday, February 12, 2018****

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*Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion
2018
Archdiocese of Chicago*

Complete and return this form with your registration form to the **Office for Divine Worship** as soon as possible. All forms must be received by **Monday, February 12, 2018**.

Type or print clearly the first and last name for each individual

CATECHUMENS

(those who are **not baptized** and who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil)

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Total Catechumens: _____

CANDIDATES FOR RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION

(baptized non-Catholic)

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Total Candidates: _____

**Duplicate this form as necessary*

OVER PLEASE

**CATHOLICS COMPLETING THEIR INITIATION
WITH CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST**
(NOT Catholics who already receive Holy Communion)

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Total Catholics completing their initiation: _____

**Duplicate this form as necessary.*

Parish/Contact Information:

Parish: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Parish Phone: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

(Please include Email - This helps us to keep you updated before the Rites – please PRINT CLEARLY)

Return this form along with your registration on or before Monday, February 12, 2018

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