



Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names (118-137)

Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names (*for children*) (277-290)

Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion (446-458)

Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

Rite for Sending Catechumens for Election (106-117)

Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Calling to Continuing Conversion (434-445)

Rite for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop (530-546)

2017 RCIA Practices Survey

The Office of Worship prepares the Rite of Election.	81%
The cardinal/archbishop/bishop presides at the Rite of Election and/or Call to Continuing Conversion.	80%
The rites are celebrated at the cathedral.	55%
Diocesan celebrations are multilingual.	51%
The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion is celebrated as a combined rite.	77%
Only one celebration of the rite in the diocese.	51%
Liturgies are typically celebrated on First Sunday of Lent.	57%

HISTORY

THEOLOGY

- Election
 - Two points of focus:
 - Affirmation by the Godparents / Election
 - Enrollment
 - The Church’s Care for Catechumens
 - An Action of God through the Church, Not of Individuals

PREPARATION

- Code of Canon Law 865 §1.
- godparents must understand what their testimony means
“Have they faithfully listened to God’s word proclaimed by the Church?
Have they begun to walk in God’s presence, treasuring the word they have received?
Have they persevered in the communion of the faithful and in the prayers?” 131
- catechumens and godparents should be familiar with the rite
all impediments to baptism should be resolved

RITE OF ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

- WHO: catechumens 118-120
WHAT: mandatory
WHERE: “in the cathedral church, in a parish church or, if necessary, in some other suitable and fitting place” 127 with bishop or delegate as presider 125
WHEN: “the Rite of Election should normally take place on the First Sunday of Lent” (6 weeks before initiation) 126 & 128 can be on other day(s) within Mass, but can be outside of Mass 128

RITE OF ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

Introductory Rites

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Rite of Election

- Presentation of the Catechumens
- Affirmation by the Godparents (and the Assembly)
- Questioning and Petitioning of the Catechumens
- Invitation and Enrollment of Names
- Reception or Election
- Intercessions for the Elect
- Prayer over the Elect
- Dismissal

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Concluding Rites

BEST PRACTICES

- How do we refer to the Rite?
- No obstacles to Baptism
- Role of the bishop
- Catechumens not at the Rite
- Signing of the Book(s) of the Elect

RITE OF ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES (*FOR CHILDREN*)

Chapter II: Order of Initiation of Children who Have Reached Catechetical Age

- optional
- abbreviated rite

RITE OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

WHO: intended for communities where there are no catechumens 447

WHAT: optional

WHERE: in parish with pastor as presider

WHEN: “at the beginning of Lent” 448
within Mass, but can be a Liturgy of the Word

- Intercessions act as Universal Prayer (can be modified)
- Rite of Sending for Recognition would not be used

RITE OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

Introductory Rites

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Calling to Continuing Conversion

- Presentation of the Candidates
- Affirmation by Sponsors (and Assembly)
- Recognition
- Intercessions
- Prayer Over Candidates

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Concluding Rites

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS AND OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

- WHO: combined rite for both catechumens and baptized candidates 547
- WHAT: mandatory for catechumens / optional for candidates
- WHERE: at the cathedral with bishop as presider 550
- WHEN: on First Sunday of Lent (6 weeks before initiation) 548
within Mass, but can be a Liturgy of the Word 89
can be on other day(s)
- candidates do not sign Book of the Elect

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS AND OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

Introductory Rites

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebration of Election

- Presentation of the Catechumens
- Affirmation by Godparents (and Assembly)
- Questioning and Petitioning of the Catechumens
- Invitation and Enrollment of Names
- Reception or Election
- Intercessions for the Elect
- Prayer over the Elect

Calling to Continuing Conversion

- Presentation of the Candidates
- Affirmation by Sponsors (and Assembly)
- Recognition

Intercessions

Prayer Over Elect and Candidates

(Dismissal)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Concluding Rites

In the catechesis of the community and in the celebration of these rites, care must be taken to maintain the distinction between the catechumens and the baptized candidates. 549

RITE FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION

WHO: catechumens 106
WHAT: optional
WHERE: in the parish with pastor as presider 108
WHEN: at “a suitable time prior to the Rite of Election” 108
“in a Celebration of the Word of God or at Mass” 109

- godparents give witness
- entire assembly has opportunity to express its consent 107
- intercessions vs Universal Prayer

RITE FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

Introductory Rites

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Rite of Sending

- Presentation of the Catechumens
- Affirmation by Godparents (and Assembly)
- (Signing of the Book of the Elect)
- Intercessions
- Prayer Over the Catechumens
- (Dismissal)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Concluding Rites

Testimony of godparents

I turn to you, godparents, for your testimony about these catechumens.

Have they taken their formation in the Gospel and in the Catholic way of life seriously?

Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

Do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the Bishop for the Rite of Election?

121

Community approval 107

“When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the catechumens.” 121

“Are you willing to affirm the testimony expressed about these catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?” Rite of Election 131

RITE OF SENDING THE CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP AND FOR THE CALLING TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

- WHO: baptized candidates 434
- WHAT: optional
- WHERE: in the parish with pastor as presider 436
- WHEN: “at a suitable time prior to the Rite of Recognition and Calling to Continuing Conversion” 436
 within Mass or Liturgy of the Word
- intended for when the candidates WILL go to the cathedral for the combined Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion
 - sponsors give witness
 - entire assembly has opportunity to express its consent 435
 - intercessions vs Universal Prayer

RITE OF SENDING THE CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP AND FOR THE CALLING TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

Introductory Rites

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Rite of Sending

- Presentation of the Candidates
- Affirmation by Sponsors (and Assembly)
- Intercessions
- Prayer Over the Candidates
- (Dismissal)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Concluding Rites

RITE FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION AND CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP

- WHO: combined rite for both catechumens and baptized candidates 530
WHAT: optional
WHERE: in the parish with pastor as presider
WHEN: at “a suitable time prior to the Rite of Election” 533
in a celebration of the Word of God or at Mass 534
- formerly titled “Parish celebration for...”
 - sponsors give witness
 - entire assembly has opportunity to express its consent 531
 - intercessions vs Universal Prayer

RITE FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION AND CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP

OUTLINE OF RITE

Introductory Rites

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Rite of Sending

- Presentation of the Catechumens
- Affirmation by Godparents (and Assembly)
- Presentation of the Candidates
- Affirmation by Sponsors (and Assembly)
- Intercessions for Catechumens and Candidates
- Prayer Over the Catechumens and Candidates
- (Dismissal of Catechumens)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Concluding Rites

BEYOND THE RITE OF ELECTION

From the day of their “Election” and admission, catechumens are called “elect.”

They are also called “co-petitioners” because together they strive or petition to receive the Sacraments of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

They are also called “those to be enlightened” because Baptism itself is called “enlightenment,” and by it the neophytes are flooded with the light of faith.

But it is permitted in our days also to use other words that, in view of the diversity of regions and secular culture, are more suited to the understanding of all and to the character of languages. 124