RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION
GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS IT?
The Rite of Election celebrates the Lord's choosing of men, women and children who, with the help of the Church, acknowledge God's election of them for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The Rite of Election marks the beginning of the final period of intensive preparation prior to receiving the sacraments of initiation. The Call to Continuing Conversion marks the final period of preparation for those preparing to be received into full communion or for those Catholics completing their initiation through Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The diocesan celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is celebrated within the context of evening prayer in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

FOR WHOM?
This Rite is for Catechumens seeking Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and candidates for reception into full communion, as well as those Catholics completing their initiation at the Easter Vigil. A clear distinction will be made in order to respect the baptismal status of those being received into full communion.

Candidates for the Rite of Election are expected to have a conversion of mind and morals, a sense of faith and charity, and be judged by those involved in their preparation to be worthy to receive the Easter Sacraments at this year’s Easter Vigil. (cf. RCIA, no. 120) Those seeking full communion in the Church and those Catholics preparing to complete their initiation are to have listened faithfully to the Gospels, developed a deeper appreciation of their baptism, reflected upon the tradition of the Church, and have advanced in a life of love. (cf. RCIA, no. 453)

WHAT ABOUT CELEBRATION IN THE PARISH?
Although this Rite takes place in a larger diocesan setting with the bishop or his representative, local parishes should celebrate a Rite of Sending. In this celebration the catechumens are presented to the community, testimony is given by the catechists and sponsors, and they inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect that will be kept in the parish. Baptized candidates for full communion and Catholics preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist may also be presented to the parish at this time. Since those who are baptized already have their names enrolled in the baptismal registers, they do not inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect. (cf. RCIA nos. #530 - #546)
THE BOOK OF THE ELECT AND PRESENTATION OF CATECHUMENS

We are asking that each parish bring its Book of the Elect to the Rite of Election. Each parish should designate a catechist (or someone who has played a significant role in the formation of the catechumens) to present the Book of the Elect during the celebration of the Rite of Election. That designated person (who should not be a catechumen, candidate, or sponsor) will come forward, leading the catechumens and their godparents, and present the Book of the Elect as the name of the parish is called. An MC will direct them to the appropriate place. Once all parishes from a deanery(s) have been called forward, the Archbishop or Auxiliary Bishop will ask the godparents to give testimony regarding God’s action in the lives of the catechumens and how the catechumens have responded to God’s call. Then he will question the catechumens of their desire to answer God’s call through the celebration of the Easter sacraments. Once election has been completed, the designated catechist with the Book of the Elect will proceed to a prominent place in the Cathedral/Immaculate Conception and wait until the conclusion of the Rite, at which time the books will be blessed with incense. After the incensation, catechists with the Books of the Elect will return to their places.

Only the names of the catechumens are inscribed in the Book of the Elect. This book should be of good quality. It will be brought forward only during the presentation of catechumens.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR FULL COMMUNION

Baptized candidates will be called forward to the sanctuary (after the Rite of Election). Once again, parish names will be called by deanery, and baptized candidates will be invited to come forward with their sponsors. They will not follow the Book of the Elect. The Archbishop or Auxiliary Bishop will question the sponsors about the readiness of the candidates to enter fully into the sacramental life of the Church.

SEATING FOR THE CELEBRATION

A seating chart for each location will posted on our website by mid-February. Once the seating charts are posted, the link will be emailed to the person who completed the information form. It is vital that you return the information form by the deadline of February 3, 2014 so that you are assured the appropriate number of seats. Seating will be reserved only for catechumens and godparents, candidates and sponsors, children who are catechumens or candidates, their parents and godparents, three team members and the pastor. Other family members are asked to be seated in the non-reserved sections.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

1) Fill out and return the information form by February 3, 2014 to the Worship Office. We cannot guarantee that the names of your parish’s catechumens and candidates will be included in the program or seating assignments if your information sheet is returned past this date.
2) Designate the person to present the parish Book of the Elect during the celebration. Prior to the celebration of the Rite of Election, that person will need instructions for presentation of the Book of the Elect during the presentation of the catechumens. (Refer to the section above.)

3) The Rite of Sending, which may be used in the parish prior to the Rite of Election, is found in *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. One of the following is used:

   a) "Sending the Catechumens for Election" (RCIA, no.106)

   b) "Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop...", (RCIA, no. 434)

   OR

   c) the combined rite "Sending of Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop", (RCIA, no. 530)

Please be certain to have your catechumens sign the Book of the Elect at this parish celebration, as they will not sign the book at the Rite of Election.

4) After the celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, it is appropriate that the Book of the Elect should be taken back to the parish, and displayed there in a place of honor during the remainder of the Lenten season.