



Liturgy Office

R.C. Diocese of Prince Albert
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January 24th, 2012

Dear Pastors & Christian Initiation Coordinators,

“In the sacrament of Christian initiation we are freed from the power of darkness and joined to Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. We receive the Spirit of filial adoption and are part of the entire people of God in the celebration of the memorial of the Lord’s death and resurrection.” (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, general Introduction, p. xi)

On the first Sunday of Lent, **February 26th, 2012**, the Rite of Election will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince Albert, by our Bishop Albert Thevenot. Please 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. **This year Bishop Albert would like each pastor to call up those participating from their parish(s).**

According to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults it states: “The people of God, as represented by the local Church, should understand and show by their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptized. Therefore the community must always be fully prepared in the pursuit of its apostolic vocation to give help to those who are searching for Christ...Hence, the entire community must help the candidates and the catechumens throughout the process of initiation.” (p. 5)

So please invite persons of the catechumens and candidates families. As well, encourage participation from your community and members as a support to those who will be joining our Church this Easter.

At **3 o’clock** in the afternoon a **guided tour** will begin at the Cathedral, again inviting those from your parishes who would like to participate along with the Catechumens and Candidates. **Immediately following this tour the Bishop would like to have a short discussion time with the group.**

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 conclusion of this letter). 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. The sponsors of the Candidates will present them to the Bishop. We ask that the sponsors prepare a short sentence or two giving witness as to the readiness of the candidate to be initiated at the Easter Vigil (please see example at the conclusion of this letter).

We hope to see many of you February 26th at 3:00 pm for our Diocesan Celebration of 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 and Sponsors would consider using the following format to introduce their catechumen or candidate:

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

Another way to link your community with the Diocesan event is by having 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. This year we have attached an invitation from Bishop Albert for you to distribute to each of your Catechumens and Candidates who will be participating. Please RSVP the number of people from your parish(s) that will be joining us for supper.

To allow opportunity to prepare well for this event, we would appreciate if you could return the registration form and number of attendants for supper to: ***Heidi Epp by February 7th, 2012***

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,
Heidi Epp
Liturgy Office Coordinator