



**THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA • PASTORAL OFFICE**  
**LA DIÓCESIS DE YAKIMA • CENTRO PASTORAL**

---

February 2, 2017

Dear Father:

On Sunday, March 5th, we celebrate the Rite of Election for Catechumens and Candidates at Family Parish at 3:00 p.m. I am sending a copy of this letter to all RCIA Coordinators in the Diocese of Yakima and ask that you review the content of this letter with your Coordinator, along with the included Instructions for the Rite of Election.

As we approach this time of discernment for Catechumens (those not baptized) and Candidates for Full Communion, I am looking forward to taking this next step with them. At the Rite of Election the Catechumens publicly express to me their desire for baptism. In the Rite of Sending which takes place before, in your parish, the Catechumens will write their names in the Book of the Elect and then this is presented to me at the afternoon Rite. [Refer to the Diocesan Website for a copy of the Rite of Sending.]

At the Rite of Election I also recognize those already baptized Christians in their call to continuing conversion for reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, either during the Easter Vigil or at another suitable time during the year. In addition, candidates from your parish may also include previously uncatechized and baptized-only adult Catholics. I understand there has been some confusion about their participation. But adult Catholics who are being prepared in RCIA for Confirmation and Eucharist are welcome to attend the Rite.

There is also a bit of confusion with a few parishes sending candidates to this Rite who are only preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please note that the Rite of Election is not a Rite for Confirmation-only Candidates. Confirmation for high school students and adults who have already received Communion takes place in the local parish as scheduled by the Bishop 's office, and these persons are not to participate in the Rite of Election.

If further clarification is needed about this Rite, or if you have any questions about RCIA, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the members of the Diocesan RCIA Committee (listed on the Instructions for the Rite of Election). They are willing to assist and/or visit you with any information regarding the RCIA process in your parish.

I thank you for all you give and all you are especially for those in search of a spiritual home.

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Tyson".

Most Rev. Joseph Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

[signature applied electronically]