



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

January 15, 2015

Dear Father:

In February we celebrate the Rite of Election for Catechumens and Candidates. I am sending a copy of this letter to all RCIA directors and coordinators in the Diocese of Yakima as well. I would ask you to review the content of this letter with them, along with the Instructions for the Rite of Election attached.

WHEN IS THE NEXT RITE OF ELECTION?

Our celebration of the Rite of Election is **February 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.** at Holy Family Catholic Church in Yakima.

WHO COMES TO THE RITE OF ELECTION?

There are only two categories of those who come to the Rite of Election.

Catechumens: The first category is for those who have never been baptized and are preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Candidates: The second category is for those who are baptized Christian in another faith and are being received into full communion of the Catholic Church, either during the Easter Vigil or at another suitable time during the year. Candidates may include baptized only adult Catholics who have had no previous instruction in the faith.

WHO SIGNS THE BOOK FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION?

Only the Catechumens, the unbaptized, sign the Book of the Elect. These are the signatures which will be presented to me at the Rite of Election.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER FAITH?

Those who are baptized in another faith (candidates) also participate in the Rite of Election. However, we do not have them sign the Book of the Elect because they are baptized and are already listed among the elect. We honor the baptism of their previous Church thus having a sign of our Christian unity.

Please refer to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Appendix III: National Statutes for the Catechumenate, to further explain these important clarifications which I have cited below for your review:

30. Those who have already been baptized in another Church or ecclesial community should not be treated as catechumens or so designated. Their doctrinal and spiritual preparation for reception into full Catholic communion should be determined according to the individual case, that is, it

should depend on the extent to which the baptized person has led a Christian life within a community of faith and been appropriately catechized to deepen his or her inner adherence to the Church.

31. The reception of candidates into the communion of the Catholic Church should ordinarily take place at the Sunday Eucharist of the parish community in such a way that it is understood that they are indeed Christian believers who have already shared in the sacramental life of the Church and are now welcomed into the Catholic eucharistic community upon their profession of faith and confirmation, if they have not been confirmed, before receiving the eucharist.

32. It is preferable that reception into full communion not take place at the Easter Vigil lest there be any confusion of such baptized Christians with the candidates for baptism, possible misunderstanding of or even reflection upon the sacrament of baptism celebrated in another Church or ecclesial community, or any perceived triumphalism in the liturgical welcome into the Catholic Eucharistic community.

WHAT ABOUT UNCATECHIZED CATHOLICS?

Uncatechized adult Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist can be included in the Rite of Election, but this Rite is not for high school candidates preparing for Confirmation. As you know confirmation for high school students, and for adults who have already received Communion, takes place in the local parish as scheduled by the Bishop's office, and are not to participate in this Rite. They participate in the Rite of Confirmation with the Bishop.

RITE OF SENDING SCRIPT

You might find the attached script helpful for the **Rite of Sending** to be celebrated in your parish prior to the Rite of Election on February 22.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

The Diocesan Committee members for RCIA are also willing to assist and/or visit you with 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 yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

[Signature electronically applied]