

Archdiocese of Boston

2023 Rite of Election

First Memorandum

November 2022

Dear Pastors, RCIA Directors and Catechists,

We have once again reached a new liturgical year this Advent, and here in the Office of Divine Worship we are already thinking ahead to Lent! Yes, it is time to begin preparations for the 2023 Rite of Election. Please read carefully to know what to expect in the New Year.

**Helpful Documents for parish use:**

- [RCIA Parish Intake Form](#) (for parish use only)
- [RICA Hoja de Información General](#) (solo para uso parroquial)
- [RCIA Reference Chart \(Who does what parts of RCIA, and when?\)](#)

**Parish-based Books of the Elect**

Since 2020, each parish (or multi-parish collaborative) has been asked to have its own Book of the Elect. If parishes already have one to use, this may be used. For collaboratives or parishes that have recently merged, and which already have a Book of the Elect, this same book may be used. The simple solution is to write the name of the newly merged parish at the top of the page to be used this year. Any parish or collaborative that did not receive a free Book of the Elect from the Archdiocese should email me at [mlavigne@rcab.org](mailto:mlavigne@rcab.org) to arrange to pick one up.

**2023 Rite of Election at the Cathedral**

The Rite of Election for 2023 will be held once again at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington St., Boston, MA 02118. **This year, as in 2022, there will only be ONE celebration of the Rite of Election at 2:00pm Sunday, February 26, 2023**, since the Cathedral can well accommodate a congregation of this size.

**An Archdiocesan Liturgy**

The Rite of Election is a rite which is proper to the Archbishop and is not intended for celebration in parish churches. Every Catechumen in the Archdiocese of Boston is to participate in the Rite of Election with the Archbishop on the First Sunday of Lent. It is strictly forbidden by the Rite itself to hold a “rite of election” in the parish. The proper celebration for parishes is the “Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election,” an optional rite found in the RCIA, #106-117.

### **Catechumens (Unbaptized) Only for 2023**

As was done in 2022, **only the Rite of Election** (for unbaptized catechumens) will be celebrated at the Cathedral, and **NOT** the Call to Continuing Conversion that is celebrated for Christian Candidates (already Baptized Christians). The Call to Continuing Conversion is always optional. This will assist in limiting the size of the congregation assembling in the Cathedral, while still allowing RCIA Catechists, every catechumen's sponsor, and catechumens' families or other designated guests to attend.

Please note: Children who are at the age of reason (and beyond) and are being baptized should attend the Rite of Election. Additionally, they should receive all the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

### **Registration**

The registration for the Rite of Election will open in January of 2023. In the meantime, please use the RCIA Parish Intake Form (see above) to collect the necessary information for all Catechumens/Candidates, and feel free to make use of the new Spanish version if necessary.

### **IMPORTANT:**

- **PARISH INTAKE INFO:** If you haven't done so already, please be sure to gather proper information for each Catechumen/Candidate using the RCIA Parish Intake Form (see above). We have created this form for parish use to collect the information.
- **REGISTRATION:** Registration for the Rite of Election opens in January 2023.
- **MARRIAGE ISSUES:** Check that marriage issues are resolved **before** you present people at the Rite of Election. This may include checking the marital history *of the spouses* of candidates and catechumens. Failure to deal with these cases has resulted in hurt and disappointment in the past.
- **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:** Obtain and have on file in the parish a copy of the baptismal certificate from the church of the candidate's baptism.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Michael Lavigne**

Assistant Secretary for Evangelization and Discipleship

[mlavigne@rcab.org](mailto:mlavigne@rcab.org)

617.746.5748