

Archdiocese of Boston
2023 Rite of Election
Second Memorandum
January 9, 2023

Dear Pastors, RCIA Directors and Catechists,

It is now time to open registration for the 2023 Rite of Election! Please read carefully for instructions on how to proceed.

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 \(Who does what parts of RCIA, and when?\)](#)

Catechumens (Unbaptized) Only for 2023

For 2023, **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. The Call to Continuing Conversion may be celebrated optionally **in a parish** that has Christian Candidates for Reception into Full Communion.

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 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.

Registration

Registration for the Rite of Election is now open!

Registration steps:

1. Download the attached Excel form and save it
2. Enter the required information, noting that there are three tabs at the bottom of the Excel sheet: Instructions, Catechumens, Information

3. Save your completed registration form
4. Email the Excel file as an attachment to RiteofElection@rcab.org
5. Be sure to be clear about the full name and city/town of your parish (i.e. We have a lot of St. Mary's in the Archdiocese!)
6. **Registration is due by February 17, 2023**

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 Diane Campbell at dcampbell@rcab.org to arrange to receive one.

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:** Download the attached Excel form and save it, then enter the required information, save it again, and email it as an attachment to RiteofElection@rcab.org
- **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. Emailing your completed Registration Form indicates to us that you **have addressed** any marriage issues.
- **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:** Obtain and have on file in the parish a copy of the baptismal certificate from the church of the candidate's baptism.

Recommendations for In-Parish Rites

CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION: In 2023, the optional Call to Continuing Conversion (for Baptized Christian Candidates) **may be celebrated locally in the parish** (or in one of the parishes of a multi-parish collaborative) at the discretion of the Pastor/Administrator. The directives to celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion in the parish are found at RCIA, #446-458.

Please note that the Call to Continuing Conversion in the parish need not be celebrated on any particular date. Unlike the Rite of Election and the Scrutinies, **it is not tied to any particular Sunday of Lent**. If you have catechumens (unbaptized), you may wish to celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion before Lent, so as not to crowd the Lenten Sundays with additional rites related to the RCIA. Note also that **none of the optional rites** related to Christian Candidates are required to be celebrated, neither by the RCIA itself, nor by the Archdiocese of Boston. Pastors and Administrators are free to choose from the options offered by the RCIA for these cases. The Office of Divine Worship is happy to offer consultation with any pastor or RCIA director who would like to explore the possibilities. Simply call or email us!

SCRIPT ATTACHED FOR THE IN-PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION: We have edited a script for use in the liturgy when celebrating the Call to Continuing Conversion as part of Sunday Mass highlighting all prayers, other texts, and rubrics for pastor/celebrant, RCIA director, candidates and sponsors, congregation, deacon or lector, and musicians. We are attaching it as a Word document to allow for easy copying and pasting of needed texts in the creation of pew worship aids, or if you wish to include the congregational responses in a page of your parish bulletin, as you may already do with your music or readings. Note that not all of the General Intercessions need be used; rather, select one or more and add them to your usual Sunday prayers of the faithful to be read by the Deacon or a Lector. Note also that in the smaller setting of the parish, the names of Christian Candidates may be called aloud as they are invited forward for the rite—all explained in the document.

RITE OF SENDING OF THE CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION: An optional rite found in the RCIA, #106-117, the Sending of the Catechumens for Election provides an opportune time for catechumens to sign the Book of the Elect. It is necessary that catechumens sign the Book of the Elect prior to coming to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election, since signing the books is no longer part of the Archdiocesan celebration of the Rite of Election. Additionally, celebrating this rite at the principal parish Mass allows the faithful gathered to participate in the journey of the catechumens toward Christian Initiation by means of their visible support and prayers, prayers which will undoubtedly benefit each catechumen. If a parish or collaborative chooses to celebrate this rite, it may do so at any time prior to the Rite of Election, whether on the First Sunday of Lent at a morning Mass (or Saturday Vigil Mass), or on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. If including the signing of the Book of the Elect within the rite at Mass, this may be done as specified in RCIA #113 where it reads (note my comments in brackets, and my emphases in **bold**): “**113. If the signing of the Book of the Elect is to take place in the presence of the bishop** [Not being done in the Archdiocese of Boston], **it is omitted here. However, if the signed Book of the Elect is to be presented to the bishop in the rite of election** [this is what we are doing in Boston], **the catechumens may now come forward to sign it or they should sign it after the celebration or at another time prior to the rite of election.**”

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions via email or phone! Please know of our prayers for you, your Catechumen and Candidates.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Patrick Krisak

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