

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION

Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012 - First Sunday of Lent
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Cathedral of Saint Patrick - Fifth Avenue, New York City

Parish Catechumens, Godparents and Parish Representatives:

- Must be registered for the Rite of Election.
- Parish groups will receive their SEAT ASSIGNMENTS via email by February 17, 2012.
- **Are to be in their assigned seats by 1:45 PM.**

PLEASE NOTE:

- a. **Reserved Seats are ONLY for registered Catechumens, Godparents and the Parish Representatives. All other Parish guests are to find seats in the general seating area as indicated by Cathedral Ushers and Hospitality Volunteers.**
- b. **Registered Catechumens, Godparents and Parish Representatives are to sit at their ASSIGNED SEATS. Please make sure you are in the assigned seats given to your parish group.**

- + Please note that there are NO RESTROOMS available for public use in the Cathedral.
- + Catechumens should celebrate the **Rite of Sending** in their own parish before arriving at the Cathedral. We suggest that the Catechumens NOT SIGN the Parish Book of the Elect at the parish Rite of Sending (before the Rite of Election).
- + Do not bring your own Book of the Elect. All the Catechumens will sign the one official Archdiocesan **Book of the Elect** at the Cathedral during the Rite of Election. The Archdiocesan Book of the Elect will be presented to the Archbishop.

Before the Rite of Election:

- + “Before the rite of election is celebrated, the catechumens are expected to have undergone a conversion in mind and in action and to have developed a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching as well as a spirit of faith and charity.” (RCIA #120)
- + “Within the rite of election the bishop celebrant declares in the presence of the community the Church’s approval of the candidates. Therefore to exclude any semblance of mere formality from the rite, there should be a deliberation prior to its celebration to decide on the catechumen’s suitability.” (RCIA # 122)

After the Rite of Election:

“The period of purification and enlightenment, which the rite of election begins, customarily coincides with Lent. This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance.” (RCIA # 138 – 139)

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