OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

TO: Parish Coordinators of Christian Initiation

FROM: Rev. Gerald Dennis Gill, Director
Office for Divine Worship

DATE: November 9, 2026

RE: **Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion**
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

This significant celebration marks a pivotal moment in the journey to full initiation in the Church. For the unbaptized — the catechumens — it is a public recognition that they are chosen by God and the Church to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. For the baptized — the candidates — it is a call to deepen their conversion and their communion with Christ and the Church. Together, they enter a final season of preparation, prayer, and renewal as Lent begins, supported by the community and strengthened by faith.

SUMMARY PAGE

IN 2027 THERE WILL BE TWO OCCASIONS FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS AND OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2027 @ 3:00 PM
BUCKS COUNTY, DELAWARE COUNTY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2027 @ 3:00 PM
CHESTER COUNTY, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Important Deadlines:

- **Registration Deadline:** January 25, 2027
- **Adult Confirmation Registration Deadline:** April 23, 2027

Important Reminders:

- All registration and communication will be handled electronically via Flocknote.
- Download and print required name tags *prior* to arrival.
- Bring your parish **Book of the Elect** to the celebration. Book should be signed *prior* to arrival.
- Catechumens, candidates, godparents, sponsors, and Book of the Elect presenters should arrive **45 minutes before** the celebration.
- If your parish cannot attend the Rite, a **Delegation Form** must be completed to celebrate the Rite locally. The Delegation Form link can be found on the next page.

Resources and Registration

- Rite of Election: https://odwphiladelphia.org/election/
- Christian Initiation Resources: https://odwphiladelphia.org/initiation/

Please review the complete memo carefully,
as important updates and logistical changes have been made for the 2027 celebrations.

REGISTRATION & DELEGATION

TO REGISTER YOUR PARISH CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

Rite of Election – Link for Coordinators
https://odwphiladelphia.org/rite-of-election/

Username: **riteofelection**
Password: **%%4electionsubmissions%%**

This form must be submitted electronically by Monday, January 25, 2027.

Registration information regarding the 2027 Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion will be handled **ONLY** electronically. All the information can be found on the Office for Divine Worship, Rite of Election website, https://odwphiladelphia.org/election/

- Before submitting the registration form, please print it and save your submission for your own records.
- The Christian Initiation Coordinator is asked to check with the adult faith formation program, Catholic high schools/institutions, and ethnic communities, involved in the formation of adults for the sacraments of Christian Initiation, to provide a complete listing for the Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion.

If you are unable to participate at the time designated for your county, please register for the Rite that works best for your parish. If you are unable to attend any of the Rites offered, please make sure that your pastor or parochial administrator completes the **DELEGATION FORM.**

For Resources and more information, please go to: https://odwphiladelphia.org/initiation/

Name Tags:

a) Please click on the link to download the Catechumens/Godparents/Candidates/Sponsors/Book of the Elect Presenter Tags. Please have name tags on upon entry into the Cathedral for seating purposes.

The name tag shows that you are a Catechumen/Godparent/Candidates/Sponsors/Book of the Elect Presenter only. Please use the link below to download it or use it as a template.

https://odwphiladelphia.org/election/

Please have your tag clipped on upon entry into the Cathedral. All Presenters of the Book of the Elect will be seated in a **RESERVED** section. Instructions can be downloaded using the link above. Instruction will be in the pews for review.

PRIESTS

All attending priests are strongly encouraged to vest in surplice/alb in the Neumann Room of the Cathedral Basilica and prepare for the liturgical procession. Please arrive around 15 minutes before the Rite starts.

The parish priests do not present the Book of the Elect.

PARISH / INSTITUTIONS DELEGATION

If your parish or institution does not plan to attend the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates at* the Cathedral, in order to obtain delegation from the Archbishop to do so at your parish. If you will be carrying out the Rites locally, please fill out this form.
https://form.jotform.com/260526773469165

****Only parishes that complete this form will receive delegation.**

The Pastors/Parochial Administrators are delegated to carry out the Rite locally before the First Scrutiny on Saturday, February 27, 2027 or Sunday, February 28, 2027.

Please see the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Part I, Chapter I, for the Rite of Election alone, or Part II, Chapter V, for the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion alone. Or the Rites may be combined as indicated in Appendix I, 3, Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion.

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

A catechumen is an unbaptized individual who has never been officially initiated into a church community. Going through a process of conversion marked by study, prayer, and liturgical rites at Mass. Catechumens then receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

All Pastors/Parochial Administrators are expected to send Adult Catechumens, those who have completed their 18th year and are older, to the Cathedral for the *Rite of Election*. Participation in the Rite of Election by those 18 years of age and younger is optional (see OCIA, 277).

- Each parish is encouraged to provide the ***Rite of Sending*** for catechumens and candidates prior to *the Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion.*
- *Catechumens, Godparents, and Presenters of the Book of the Elect should arrive* **45 minutes** *before the start of the celebration. A review of the Rite will take place 30 minutes before the start of the celebration.*

BOOK OF THE ELECT

- The signing of the Book of the Elect is indicative of Election for Baptism; therefore, the already baptized do not sign it.
- The signing of the Book of the Elect by catechumens only should take place prior to the Rite of Election. This may take place during the ***Rite of Sending*** or during a catechetical session.
- **The name of the presenter of the Book of the Elect should be designated on the catechumen registration form.**
- The parish priests do not present the Book of the Elect.
- The parish/institutions need to send the Book of the Elect with their parish group. We do not provide the book on the date of the Rite.
- They will not be signing the Book during the Rite. You can add the Archbishop's name to the book.
- All presenters will be seated in a reserved section.

CALLING OF NAMES

Each catechumen's name will be announced if the registration form is received before **Monday, January 25, 2027.**

- A space will be provided on the catechumen registration form for phonetic pronunciation. Please use your best judgment when filling out the form.
- After the **catechumen's** name is announced, they will remain in their pews until the ***Act of Election*** is completed.

PROCEDURE FOR PRESENTING THE BOOK OF THE ELECT

After the Affirmation by the Godparents and the Assembly (see program)

1. The usher will ask you to stand and exit two pews at a time to form a **double line** in the center aisle.
2. Hold the *Book of the Elect* open to the current list of names of catechumens. The names should be facing out.

3. The usher will lead you up the center aisle and into the sanctuary.

4. **This is a procession**. Keep moving slowly (not too slowly) without gaps.

5. Go up the steps, together with your partner, and then turn left. Walk up to the bottom step of the Cathedra (Archbishop's chair) towards the Archbishop.

6. Stop in front of the Archbishop. Slightly elevate the *Book of the Elect* and extend it forward in a gesture of presentation.

7. The "*Book of the Elect* presenter" presents the open *Book of the Elect* to the Archbishop and says:

    a. **"These are the names of the catechumens from _____ (your parish name) parish, seeking Initiation" while holding the *Book of the Elect*, the Archbishop acknowledges them.**

8. Then the book presenter turns with the book open, at the direction of the ushers, proceeds out of the sanctuary via the right and/or left side altar gate (Sacred Heart and/or Assumption side), and lines up in front of the altar rail, facing the Archbishop, with the book open, until the ***Act of Election*** is completed. Return to your seat with the closed book at the direction of the usher.

To download the Book of the Elect presenter instruction, please click here.

CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

A candidate is a previously baptized person, either in the Catholic faith or in another Christian faith, and over the age of 18, who desires to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. Their formation helps them understand and experience the specific teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. Their formation, in some cases, may be with catechumens preparing for baptism, but their preparation is very different since they have already been baptized. Candidates receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at a time other than the Easter Vigil.

Adults Candidates for Confirmation and Communion who have been engaged in an extended period of formation alongside catechumens are welcome to participate in the *Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion*. **Baptized Children do not participate in the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion.**
The Call to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (and not children) who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion and/or Confirmation and/or Communion. This is especially for those who have distanced themselves from the Christian faith and who are not regularly practicing this faith.

- Each parish is encouraged to provide the Rite of Sending for catechumens and candidates prior to the Celebration of the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion.*
- *Catechumens, Godparents, Presenters of the Book of the Elect, Candidates, and Sponsors should arrive* **45 minutes** *before the start of the celebration. A review of the Rite will take place 30 minutes before the start of the celebration.*

ARRIVAL & PARKING

SEATING

- Catechumens and godparents will be seated in a RESERVED SECTION on the left side of the main aisle. Please be sure to have tags on for quicker and easier seating.
- Candidates and sponsors will be seated in a RESERVED SECTION on the right side of the main aisle. Please be sure to have tags on for quicker and easier seating.
- **There will be reserved seating for wheelchair users and deaf catechumens.**

- PLEASE INDICATE SPECIAL NEEDS ON THE CATECHUMEN/CANDIDATE REGISTRATION FORM.

A very **limited** amount of unreserved seating is available for additional family, friends, and parishioners.

ATTIRE
The solemnity of this occasion, the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates, should be reflected in your choice of attire**. Recreational attire is not appropriate.**

INFORMATION TABLE
There are limited emergency supplies at the information table, i.e., water, tissues, and paper towels should an emergency arise. There is no need to go to the information desk if your group is registered. The information table is located near the baptismal font.

PARKING
- There is limited parking in the Archdiocesan Parking Lot, which can be accessed from 17th Street. Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Most street parking is free on Sunday.
- Gateway Parking Garage is also available at 1540 Vine Street, Philadelphia 19103
    - Entrances on Spring Garden and 16th Streets

PARISH/INSTITUTIONS BUS
Please note that buses **require authorized parking placards**. If your parish or institution group will be traveling by bus, make sure to note it on the registration form. The necessary placards will be secured and provided upon your arrival.

CATHEDRAL ENTRANCES
- Weekend Sunday Masses are scheduled for Saturday at 5:15 pm and Sunday at 12:30 pm in the Cathedral Chapel.
- Please do not use the Chapel parking lot entrance during these Mass times.

CONFIRMATION OF BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2027

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on **Pentecost Sunday, May 16, 2027, at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass**. All priests are invited to concelebrate. Please vest with archdiocesan vestments in the Neumann Room.

- A pastor who foresees the genuine pastoral need to confirm an adult baptized Roman Catholic **can do so only with the specific delegation of the Bishop** (see Canon 882). This delegation is required for the validity of the Sacrament in the case of a Roman Catholic candidate. Please send this request for delegation to the Office for Divine Worship.
- The Archbishop gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm adult baptized Roman Catholics, 16 years of age and older, on any occasion from Palm Sunday through Pentecost Sunday. If you have any questions about this faculty, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. **There is no need for an additional letter requesting this faculty during this period specified by the Archbishop. Priests are reminded that only the 2016 revised The Order of Confirmation may be used to celebrate the Sacrament.**
- Please use this form to register each baptized Catholic adult that will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation **at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul**, https://odwphiladelphia.org/rite-of-election/. All registrations are handled electronically. Deadline **April 23, 2027**.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office for Divine Worship at Worship@archphila.org