

*Diocese of Covington*  
*RCIA Policies and Guidelines Manual*  
**Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion**

**X. Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion**

**A. Pastoral Aspect**

1. The unbaptized catechumens are sent to the bishop for election to the Sacraments of Initiation. The Church “makes its ‘election,’ that is, the choice and admission of those catechumens who have the dispositions that make them fit to take part, at the next major celebration, in the sacraments of initiation. This step is called election because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts.” (RCIA, no. 119)
2. Those baptized candidates who will complete their initiation or be received into full communion at the Easter Vigil, are sent for recognition and the call to continuing conversion by the bishop. Since they have already been joined to Christ and the church through Baptism, they are called to deepen their conversion to Christ as they learn to live out their baptismal call to the community of the Catholic Church.

**B. Catechetical Aspect** – The RCIA places a strong emphasis on discernment before the rite of election or the call to continuing conversion. At this time the church determines the readiness of catechumens and candidates to be called to the Easter Sacraments, who will normally have had about a year of formation in the catechumenate period (RCIA, nos. 121,122).

**C. Liturgical Aspect**

1. “The rite should take place in the cathedral church, in a parish church or if necessary, some other suitable or fitting place.” (RCIA, no. 127) It is celebrated within Mass after the homily, and should be celebrated within the Mass of the first Sunday of Lent. “When celebrated outside Mass, the rite takes place after the readings and is concluded with the dismissal of both the elect and the faithful.” (RCIA, no. 128)
2. The role of the bishop is especially prominent in the rite of election. Because he is the center of unity for the local church and is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the entire initiation process, the announcement of the church’s decision to call catechumens and candidates to the Sacraments falls to him. (RCIA, nos. 12,121) In the case where it may be impossible for him to do so, he must delegate this responsibility to a priest or deacon.

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3. In the Diocese of Covington the liturgy for the rite of election is planned by the Diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy and is celebrated at the Cathedral on the first Sunday of Lent, with the Bishop presiding. Pastors of each parish in the diocese receive a letter from the Office of Worship inviting them to submit the names of those catechumens and candidates who will be presented to the Bishop for election or call to continuing conversion.
4. If catechumens are presented for election, the pastor should bring the Book of Elect from their parish, signed by those catechumens during the rite of sending. The book is brought to the Bishop for his signature when the catechumens are presented during the rite of election.

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