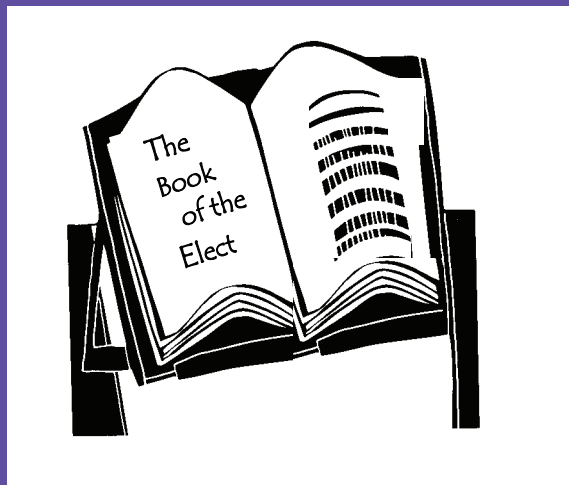


PARISH
RESOURCE
PACKET
2012

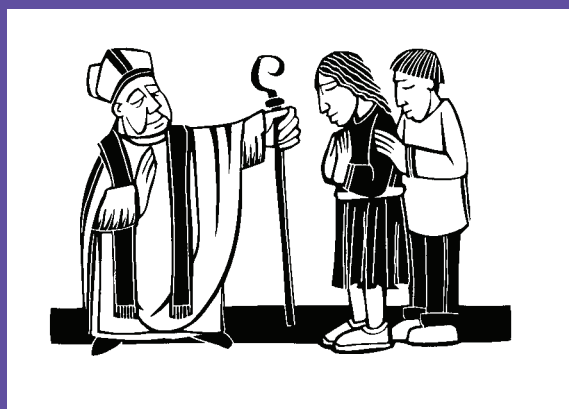


Office of Worship
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RITE OF ELECTION



AND CELEBRATION OF THE CALL
TO CONTINUING CONVERSION



CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012

2:00 P.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GATHERING WITH BISHOP BRAXTON

1:15 P.M.

RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION
FEBRUARY 26, 2012

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND CHANGES

RCIA LEADERS, PARISH REPRESENTATIVES, SPONSORS AND GODPARENTS

Dear RCIA Leaders, Parish Representatives, Sponsors and Godparents,

In the Diocese of Belleville, on the first Sunday of Lent, we will celebrate the Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates. As you are aware, this rite is among the last steps the catechumens and candidates take before they pass through the waters of Baptism, are sealed with the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, and take their place at the Eucharistic table. Like all of the liturgies of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, this rite is rich in meaning for all who take part.

There are a few reminders of importance this year:

- ◆ ALL catechumens and candidates are required to attend the gathering with Bishop Braxton.
- ◆ Nametags and ribbons will NOT be issued.
- ◆ Total number of participants is still needed.
- ◆ Clothing that is suitable for the occasion should be worn.

Once again, there is a meeting with Bishop Braxton prior to the celebration. **It is of extreme importance** that RCIA leaders make certain that all candidates and catechumens attend this meeting without exception. Failure to participate in the Bishop's session could prevent participation in the rite. This gathering is for candidates and catechumens ONLY.

Please be sure to **return the number** of catechumens, candidates, sponsors and godparents who will be in attendance to us as soon as possible. This count is used for reserving pews. Due to limited seating and as in the past, only one parish representative and one sponsor/godparent for each candidate/catechumen is allowed.

Beginning this year, **nametags and ribbons will not** be issued. As in the past, but more importantly so, it will be the responsibility of the sponsor or godparent to introduce the catechumen or candidate to Bishop Braxton. Instructions on the appropriate way to address and respond to the Bishop are included in this resource packet.

Because this is a day to celebrate, as on all festive occasions, it is **a day to dress up**. While trying to be sensitive to all situations, I would like to encourage you to simply ask the catechumens and candidates to dress modestly for this special occasion. Dresses, skirts, dress slacks, suits and ties would be appropriate. Jeans, low-cut or high rise tops, and flip flop shoes or sandals would not be suitable for the occasion.

Your catechumens and candidates have looked to you for direction throughout this time of preparation. It may be the first time they have visited the Cathedral, the mother Church of the diocese, or met with our Bishop. They may not know what type of clothing would be proper for an occasion such as this. Giving them some direction and suggestions regarding clothing that would be fitting for the day would simply be an extension of the commitment you have made to them and the responsibility you have of guiding a new Christian along the path of discipleship.

Thank you for preparing your catechumens and candidates for this exciting moment on their spiritual journey. I look forward to seeing you on February 26.

Sincerely,

Sue Huett

Sue A. Huett, Director
Office of Worship

INFORMATION SHEET FOR CATECHUMENS, GODPARENTS, CANDIDATES AND SPONSORS

In order to make this a joy-filled and meaningful event, a few reminders are provided for your information and comfort.

CATECHUMENS AND GODPARENTS

After the homily, the CATECHUMENS (*those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil*) will be asked to stand. They will be presented to Bishop Braxton, who will ask them to come forward with their Godparent when their name is called. The Parish representatives will begin reading the names of the catechumens. When your parish name is announced, both catechumen and Godparent should move to the center aisle and begin proceeding to the bishop's chair where Bishop Braxton will be standing. If you are seated in a side aisle, you will still approach the Bishop by the center aisle. Please walk down the side aisle and move to the rear of the center aisle and then proceed up the center aisle. Please do not move from your pew until your parish name is called.

Godparents, as you proceed down the center aisle, place your hand on the right shoulder of your catechumen to direct and support them. When you come before Bishop Braxton, briefly introduce yourself and then your catechumen to him. You may greet the Bishop as "Bishop Braxton" or "Your Excellency" and then proceed with introductions. After the Bishop greets your catechumen, the catechumen will be guided by one of the Masters of Ceremonies to stand in the sanctuary. Godparents should return the same way they came by walking down the steps in the center of the sanctuary and returning to his/her pew by using the side aisle.

Godparents and Catechumens, the appropriate response to "Peace be with you" or "Peace of Christ" is "And with your spirit."

Catechumens, when your Godparent introduces you to the Bishop, the appropriate greeting would be "Bishop Braxton" or "Your Excellency." During the Act of Election (after everyone has greeted the Bishop), Bishop Braxton will address you the first time by beginning with "And now, my dear catechumens. . ." He will ask you, "Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist?" and **you will respond** "WE DO." Bishop Braxton will then say to all of you, "I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil." **Your response** is "Thanks be to God."

CANDIDATES AND SPONSORS

After the catechumens/elect have returned to their seats, the CANDIDATES will be asked to stand. They will be presented to Bishop Braxton, who will ask them to come forward with their sponsor when their name is called. The Parish representatives will begin reading the names of the candidates. When your parish name is announced, both candidate and sponsor should move to the center aisle and begin proceeding to the bishop's chair where Bishop Braxton will be standing. If you are seated in a side aisle, you will still approach the Bishop by the center aisle. Please walk down the side aisle and move to the rear of the center aisle and then proceed up the center aisle. Please do not move from your pew until your parish name is called.

Sponsors, as you proceed down the center aisle, place your hand on the right shoulder of your candidate to direct and support him/her. When you come before Bishop Braxton, briefly introduce yourself and then your candidate. You may greet the Bishop as "Bishop Braxton" or "Your Excellency" and then proceed with introductions. After the Bishop greets your candidate, the candidate will be guided by one of the Masters of Ceremony to stand in the sanctuary. Sponsors should return the same way they came by walking down the steps in the center of the sanctuary and returning to his/her pew by using the side aisle.

Sponsors and Candidates, when you greet Bishop Braxton and he says to you "Peace be with you" or "Peace of Christ" the appropriate response is "And with your spirit."

Candidates, when your Sponsor introduces you to the Bishop, the appropriate greeting would be "Bishop Braxton" or "Your Excellency." During the Act of Recognition (after everyone has greeted the Bishop), Bishop Braxton will say to all of you, "My dear candidates, the Church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table. Join with us this Lent in a spirit of repentance. Hear the Lord's call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant." **Your response** is "Thanks be to God."

RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

PARTICIPATION FORM

Please return this information to the Office of Worship **no later than Friday, February 15, 2012** to: mfournie@diobelle.org or by phone (618)235-9601 ext. 1462 or by fax (618)257-2969.

Parish: _____ Town/City: _____

Deanery: _____ RCIA Parish Contact Person: _____

Day Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF:

Catechumens _____ Candidates _____

Godparents _____ Sponsors _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

The candidates and catechumens have been placed in your care. Please make sure that their sponsor, godparent or a parish representative is waiting for them when they arrive at Cathedral. It is overwhelming and confusing for them if they do not recognize a familiar face in the crowd of people. Designating a place to meet outside the nave of the church might be helpful so that everyone from your parish can enter and find their seats at the same time.

Photographers should refrain from coming into the sanctuary before, during or after the rite. This area is reserved for prayer and liturgy. Anyone taking pictures should do so discreetly, so as not to distract others in the assembly. *After the ceremony*, pictures may be taken near the first step in the center aisle.

Please refrain from chewing gum in the Cathedral and during the celebration.

Traditionally, as the Bishop leaves the sanctuary and processes out, he blesses the assembly. The appropriate gesture in response to the Bishop's blessing is to bless yourself with the Sign of the Cross.

Please reserve tours of the Cathedral for another day and time. Trips to the Cathedral can happen anytime during the RCIA process. The period of Mystagogy helps the newly baptized deepen their understanding of what happened to them at Easter. Technically, the word "mystagogy" refers to the newly baptized and not those baptized in other Churches that will be in full communion in the Catholic Church. Pastorally, however, we've discovered that some of the baptized may need as much or more care as the unbaptized. Why not reserve tours of the Cathedral for Mystagogy? Choose a date when everyone is available and make it a day of prayer, reflection, food and fellowship.

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

SUE HUETT · OFFICE OF WORSHIP

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE · 2620 LEBANON AVENUE · BELLEVILLE, IL 62221

618-235-9601 EXT. 1442 · SHUETT@DIOBELLE.ORG