



January 21, 2021

Dear Priests, Deacons and Lay Leaders in RCIA Ministry:

As you have probably heard, Archbishop Lori has delegated the faculty to celebrate the Rite of Election to pastors and clergy parish administrators this year as a safety precaution during the time of the pandemic. We hope to provide resources and answers to assist you in this endeavor.

Recently, guidance on celebrating the Rite of Election at the parish was sent from the Communications Office entitled *Liturgical Guidance in the Time of Pandemic for Winter/Spring 2021*. If you have not seen this, it is available on the [Office of Divine Worship](#) webpage.

We have received some requests for clarification on the information we sent. We hope the material below will answer most of your questions.

Does the Rite of Sending need to be celebrated this year?

The parish Rite of Sending is omitted this year, because the catechumens will not be “sent” to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election.

When can we celebrate the Rite of Election in our parish?

The Rite of Election is best celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent (February 21, 2021). For pastoral reasons in this unusual time, we allow some latitude on the date, but please do not celebrate the Rite of Election prior to Ash Wednesday or later than the Second Sunday in Lent (February 28, 2021) [RCIA 126]. This will allow for six weeks *in order to allow sufficient time for the scrutinies and presentations* [RCIA 126].

Intercessions for the Elect, the Universal Prayer and the Creed

See [RCIA 134]. There are two sets of *Intercessions for the Elect* that may be used in their entirety for the Rite of Election within Mass. Please note that *the celebrant may adapt the introduction and the intentions to fit various circumstances*. Also note at [RCIA 137] *for pastoral reasons the general intercessions (Universal Prayer) and the Profession of Faith may be omitted*.

Modifications for the Scrutinies

Though not mentioned in our liturgical guidance document, we make the following suggestions for modifications of the Scrutiny Rites during the time of pandemic:

1. If necessary, the godparent may omit the placement of their hand on the shoulder of the elect during the Intercessions to allow for social distancing.
2. The celebrant may omit the laying on of hands on each of the elect during the Exorcism, since the rubrics indicate “convenience” as a reason not to do it.

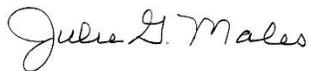
Parish Reporting of Catechumens and Candidates

Although we are not celebrating the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion at an Archdiocesan liturgy, we still need to know the number of individuals coming into the Church in 2021 and their names. We record these statistics and send them to the Vatican each year. Please go to: <https://archbalt.regfox.com/2021-rcia-reporting> to report RCIA 2021 data from your parish.

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commission (FDLC) Webinar on the Rite of Election in the Parish

There is a link in the guidance document for registration to the FDLC webinar on the Rite of Election. That link is no longer active, because the webinar is over. A recording of the webinar is available at: <https://my.demio.com/recording/rlBiR8mY>.

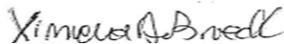
In Christ's peace,



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