



Diocese of
CROOKSTON

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Office of Worship

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January 22, 2019

Dear Pastors, RCIA Coordinators, and Faith Formation Leaders:

The annual combined celebration of the “Rite of Election” and the “Call to Continuing Conversion” for 2018 will be celebrated on the **First Sunday of Lent, March 10th**, at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston presided by Bishop Michael J. Hoepfner. NB – This is NOT a Mass. Please celebrate the “Rite of Sending” within your parish Mass that weekend with your participants.

The diocesan Book of the Elect will be signed by all Catechumens (unbaptized) present during the Rite of Election and this book will be kept on display at the Cathedral throughout the season of Lent for communal prayer.

This important liturgical rite marks the “election” or “recognition” by the Bishop of those Catechumens who have been preparing for the sacraments of initiation -baptism, confirmation, and eucharist – and deemed fit (ready for accepting the mission of the Church) by their parish pastor. This rite closes the period of the Catechumenate for them and marks the beginning of the period of Purification and Enlightenment for the Elect. This period for the Elect is marked with intense preparation and celebration of Scrutinies with their parish communities. Electing the Catechumens is reserved to the bishop as chief shepherd of the diocese and representing the universal Church. If at all possible, all Catechumens should attend the Rite of Election. Please encourage them and their godparents to reserve the date now, and to begin inviting their family, friends, and parishioners, to join them in this celebration.

NB – This rite is NOT a Mass, so be sure to remind the Faithful to attend Mass “at home” before coming to the Cathedral for the rite.

The afternoon’s rite will also recognize those adults who have already been baptized as Christians and now desire to profess their faith as members of the Catholic Church. Because they are already a part of our Christian faith, they do not enter their names into the Book of the Elect. These Christians are called to ongoing conversion, along with all the faithful, as they prepare to complete their sacramental initiation. These adults are known as Candidates to distinguish them from Catechumens and Elect, and have sponsors walking the journey with them. Please be sure to invite their sponsors to participate.

Please fill out and submit, **as soon as possible**, the online “Wufoo” Registration Form found on the website, with the names and addresses of your Catechumens and/or Candidates, along with the names of their godparents and/or sponsors, by **March 4th, 2019**. The names of everyone, including godparents and sponsors, participating in the rites on March 10th will be included in the program.

A further invitation is given to those parishes who will be sending catechumens and/or candidates. Our celebration calls for liturgical ministries in which we would like to include family, friends, and parish members of those participating. Ministries to be filled: Greeters, Ushers, Cross and Candle Bearers, Lector, Deacons (MC & Proclaim the Gospel). Thank you for your attention in this year when Lent seems to come on the heels of Christmas!

Peace and deep joy,

Mary C. Dahl, Director

Office of Worship, Diocese of Crookston

P.S. If you have Catechumens (unbaptized) *who are not able* to attend the Rite of Election for a serious reason, you (the catechist/pastor) need to do the following:

Send a letter of intent to Bishop Hoepfner requesting a written “letter of admittance” of your Catechumen(s) into the Order of the Elect. **Please submit your letter, including their name(s) and godparents to Bishop Hoepfner by March 4th.**

It is not necessary to write such a letter for Candidates.