

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for Divine Worship



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To: Pastors and Christian Initiation Ministers
From: Todd Williamson, Director of the Office for Divine Worship
Subject: Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, 2017
Date: December 19, 2016

The annual celebrations of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion have been scheduled for February 26, March 5 & 12, 2017.

These are all the forms and information necessary for you to register your catechumens and candidates for the celebration of the Rite.

The registration forms are due on or before Monday, February 20, 2017.

Please download these forms, print them, fill them out and *mail them to the Office for Divine Worship.*

PLEASE DON'T EMAIL THEM – The Meyer Center will be moving to a new Email Server *right after the first of the New Year.*

I am afraid of losing them in the spam filter, or having some other cyber-snag!
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Finally – please recall the memo sent to all pastors from the Vicar General, Fr. Ron Hicks, regarding requesting delegation to confirm a *baptized, catechized* Catholic at the Easter Vigil. Remember that NO DELEGATION for such will be given this year. A copy of that memo follows this one.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Vicar General
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979



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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 12, 2016
To: Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Associates,
DREs, CREs, RCIA Directors, Youth Ministers
From: Very Rev. Ronald Hicks
Re: Guidelines for the Conferral
of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Last April, a memorandum was sent to the parishes concerning requests for Confirmation in various circumstances. This memorandum is being sent as a reminder as parishes begin preparing for this academic year. Some information is repeated here along with some additional observations.

Specifically, I bring to your attention that **priests may not confirm already baptized and catechized Catholic candidates at the Easter Vigil nor may priests receive delegation to confirm their parishioners at another Mass.** The initial memo stated:

Parishes with small numbers of candidates should schedule Confirmation on alternate years or celebrate Confirmation with a neighboring parish. If the number of Confirmation candidates is fewer than 25, your request will be considered after the larger groups have been accommodated. Parishes with small classes may be asked by the Vicar General's office to combine with a neighboring parish.

The April 26 memo offered some suggestions about revising parish preparation programs or cooperating with neighboring parishes to comply with these requirements.

These options also are offered for your catechized candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in place of a particular parish celebration:

- Confirmation of an individual or small groups of candidates by a bishop at a nearby parish with other teens and adults
- Confirmation by a bishop at a regional or vicariate celebration designated for high school teens or adults

The Vicar General's office can assist you to find a nearby parish that will welcome your parishioners for Confirmation. Your vicariate office also is able to assist you to find regional Confirmation preparation programs and a regional Confirmation for high school teens or adults.

With regard to Sacraments at the Easter Vigil, I would like to offer some points taken from the *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*. You can find reference to them in the Paulist Ordo for Chicago under the directives for the Easter Vigil:

Pastoral consideration may suggest that along with the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, the Easter Vigil should include the rite of reception of already Baptized Christians into full communion with the Catholic Church (RCIA, 562). It is preferable, however, that reception into full communion **not** take place at the Easter Vigil lest there be any confusion of such baptized Christians with the candidates for Baptism, possible misunderstanding or even reflection upon the sacrament of Baptism celebrated in another Church or ecclesial community, or any perceived triumphalism in the liturgical welcome into the Catholic Eucharistic Community. (*National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, 33).

The reception of candidates into the community of the Catholic Church should ordinarily take place at the Sunday Eucharist of the parish community. (*National Statutes...*, 32). Similarly, for uncatechized adult Catholics who have not been admitted to the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, it is **not** recommended that the sacramental initiation of such candidates be completed with Confirmation and Eucharist on the same occasion as the celebration of the full Christian initiation of candidates for Baptism. (*National Statutes...*, 26)

A priest who receives a validly baptized Christian into full communion with the Catholic Church by law has the faculty of confirming the candidate within the rite of reception (RCIA, 481) However, a priest **may not** administer the sacrament of Confirmation in the case of a baptized Catholic who without his or her fault never put the faith into practice. In this instance, a priest needs to seek the faculty to confirm such a candidate from the diocesan bishop. (*National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, 28-29).

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my office if you have any questions or need clarification.

Peace,
Very Rev. Ron Hicks
Vicar General



2017 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion Archdiocese of Chicago

In order to accommodate all catechumens and candidates, there will be five scheduled celebrations of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion at **Holy Name Cathedral** (North State Street at Superior Street, Chicago) in 2017:

- **Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

The liturgies planned for Holy Name Cathedral are the combined celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates who are preparing for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church (RCIA #550-560). **Registration is due on or before Monday, February 20, 2017. Registration materials are enclosed.**

In the **Rite of Election**, catechumens (i.e., those who are not baptized) are formally called or chosen for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This calling or election is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts (RCIA #119).

In the **Call to Continuing Conversion** the Church welcomes those who are already baptized and are preparing to complete their initiation through both Confirmation and Eucharist and are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. The Church acknowledges their desire to be one with the Church in faith, prayer and service. Respecting the integrity of their baptism, the Church charges these candidates to use the Lenten season as a time to hear again the call to conversion and to be faithful to their baptismal vows. The Call to Continuing Conversion is an optional rite which is encouraged but not required of the candidates.

NOTE: This Rite is not appropriate for those Catholics who are baptized and already participate in Holy Communion. Nor is it appropriate for high school confirmation candidates. Baptized Catholics who have already received Holy Communion and who are preparing for the sacrament of confirmation are expected to celebrate this sacrament in their local parish community with a bishop presiding, or at one of the Vicariate celebrations of adult confirmation.

Parish ministers have the responsibility of making sure that those who are presented for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion are sufficiently prepared. The catechumens and candidates are expected to have undergone a conversion in mind and heart and to have a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching as well as a spirit of faith and charity (RCIA #120). Those involved in their preparation testify to their worthiness to receive the sacraments of initiation at this year's Easter Vigil.

(OVER)

Sponsors/Godparents:

Sponsors/Godparents are invited to join the catechumens and candidates for the celebrations held at the Cathedral. Accompanying their catechumen or candidate on the day of election the godparents exercise their ministry publicly for the first time. They give testimony on behalf of the catechumens and candidates before the community (RCIA #123). Godparents should be chosen on the basis of their Christian character and ability to give good example. It is the responsibility of godparents and sponsors to show catechumens and candidates how “to practice the Gospel in personal and social life, to sustain the candidates in moments of hesitancy and anxiety, to bear witness, and to guide the candidates’ progress in the baptismal life” (RCIA #11).

Children:

Children of catechumens or candidates, who are of catechetical age and are themselves catechumens or candidates, may accompany their parents to the Cathedral celebration. However, because the rites at the Cathedral are the adult rites, consideration should be given to bringing children who are catechumens or candidates but whose parents are not. Remember that the Rite provides a Rite of Election or Call to Continuing Conversion specifically adapted for children, which can be celebrated at the parish (RCIA # 277 – 290).

Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop:

Although the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion takes place at Holy Name Cathedral with the Bishop presiding, an individual parish may wish to celebrate the sending of catechumens and candidates to the Archdiocesan celebration by using the **Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop** (see RCIA #106-117 or #434-445 or #530-546). This optional rite offers the parish community the opportunity to express its approval of catechumens and candidates and send them forth to the celebration at the Cathedral assured of the parish’s care and support.

Book of the Elect:

All parishes are expected to bring their own Book of the Elect with them to the Cathedral. **Note:** It is most appropriate that ***only the Catechumens sign the Book of the Elect.*** Candidates, by virtue of their Christian Baptism, already have their names “inscribed in the Book of Life,” and are not considered as “Elect.” Catechumens should sign this book at the parish’s Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop. The Book of the Elect is then brought to the Archdiocesan celebration at the Cathedral.

After the names are read at the Cathedral the book will receive a special seal and then be returned immediately to the parish minister. It is expected that the same book will be used year after year.

CONFIRMATION OF BAPTIZED CATHOLICS

In order for a priest to **confirm a baptized Catholic at the Easter Vigil**, delegation must be granted for the validity of the sacrament. Priests **must** request delegation using the form provided by the Office for Canonical Services. Those forms will be available from the Office for Divine Worship or the Office for Canonical Services at the beginning of Lent.

Instructions for Registration

1. Complete and return the enclosed forms on or before Monday, February 20. On the forms, you will indicate your preference for service date and time. Your choice will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis. We regret that we will not be able to offer everyone their first choice. Therefore, it is important to indicate a **second** and **third** choice as well. ***If only one choice is marked, it will lengthen the time it will take to process your form, and it does not guarantee you your first choice.*** Due to the large number of parishes requesting the afternoon services, please assess carefully the number of seats needed for catechumens, candidates, sponsors, team members, and family members. **Confirmation will be made by email.**

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR FINAL PLANS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR DATE AND TIME.

2. **SEATING WILL BE ASSIGNED BASED ON THE DATE YOUR FORM IS RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP.**
**** Parishes may not reserve pews at the Cathedral. ****
3. If your parish is part of a combined catechumenate (two or more parishes working together), indicate this in the box on the registration form.
4. Note that the Cathedral has a 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday and so there may be some traffic congestion for those who arrive early for the 2:30 p.m. service.
5. Upon arrival at the Cathedral, a parish representative (not a candidate or catechumen) should proceed to the front of the Cathedral to check in and receive instructions for reading the names and presenting the Book of the Elect. **You will be reading only the names of those catechumens and candidates present at the celebration. Please bring your own list.** However, when completing the attached forms, please indicate the names of all the catechumens and candidates in your parish, so that we maintain an accurate count.
6. Please plan on being at the Cathedral at least 25 minutes prior to your service, so that you can check in and get your seat assignments.

**** FAXED forms CAN NOT be accepted. ****

**Registration for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion
2017**

Holy Name Cathedral

Parish: _____ Pastor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Parish Phone: _____

Catechumenate Director/Parish Contact Person: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

Email Address: _____

=====
Indicate your **first**, **second**, and **third** choices, and do not make final arrangements with your group until you have received confirmation of your date. NOTE: If only one choice is marked, it will lengthen the processing time of your form and does not guarantee you your first choice. Services are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

We would like to attend the Cathedral celebration on:

- _____ Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.
Cardinal Blase Cupich
- _____ Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.
Bishop John Manz
- _____ Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Bishop Francis Kane
- _____ Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.
Bishop Alberto Rojas
- _____ Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Bishop Joseph Perry

<p>Parishes Participating in a Combined Catechumenate:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____ (Check here if these parishes will be attending together)</p>

Total Number Attending _____
[Includes catechumens, candidates, sponsors, parish ministers, family members, etc.]

****Return this registration along with the names of catechumens and candidates
on or before Monday, February 20, 2017****

**Office for Divine Worship
Cardinal Meyer Center
3525 South Lake Park Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653**

Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion
2017
Archdiocese of Chicago

Complete and return this form with your registration form to the **Office for Divine Worship** as soon as possible. All forms must be received by **Monday, February 20, 2017**.

Type or print clearly the first and last name for each individual

CATECHUMENS

(those who are **not baptized** and who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil)

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Total Catechumens: _____

CANDIDATES FOR RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION

(baptized non-Catholic)

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Total Candidates: _____

****Duplicate this form as necessary***

OVER PLEASE

**CATHOLICS COMPLETING THEIR INITIATION
WITH CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST**
(**NOT** Catholics who already receive Holy Communion)

Name _____	Name _____
Name _____	Name _____
Name _____	Name _____
Name _____	Name _____
Name _____	Name _____
Name _____	Name _____

Total Catholics completing their initiation: _____

****Duplicate this form as necessary.***

Parish/Contact Information:

Parish: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Parish Phone: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
(Please include Email - This helps us to keep you updated before the Rites – please PRINT CLEARLY)

****Return this form along with your registration on or before Monday, February 20, 2017****

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