



Office of Liturgy

February 7, 2018

Dear Parish Catechumenate Directors,

Bishop Noonan and the Church of Orlando will celebrate the Rite of Election at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe on the First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018 at 3:00pm. Along with this memo you will find the parish seating chart for the catechumens and godparents as well as the Catechumenate Directors or designated bearer of the Book of the Elect who will accompany them. Please note the following procedures:

Before the Rite of Election at the Basilica Shrine

- Each parish will celebrate the Rite of Sending with their catechumens during which they will sign their names into the parish Book of the Elect. You are welcome to use the Rite of Sending provided by the Office of Liturgy contained in this packet.
- The Catechumenate Director or designated book bearer will bring the parish Book of the Elect to the Rite of Election at the Basilica Shrine to present to Bishop Noonan during the ritual.

At the Basilica Shrine

- Arrive early. Some parishes who have sufficient numbers rent a bus to the Rite of Election, especially if they are traveling a considerable distance. If you are coming by bus please contact the Gina Schwiegerath at the Shrine 407-239-600 as there are special drop-off and pick-up areas.
- Designate a place outside of the Shrine to gather before entering the building. There will be a table set up outside the entrance to the Shrine for Catechumenate Directors to check-in and receive nametags.
- There will be no meeting for Catechumenate Directors prior to the Rite of Election. The main task of the Directors will be to gather their catechumens and godparents and distribute nametags. Catechumens will have nametags with their first names on them. Godparents will have a nametag designating them as a godparent.
- Once you have gathered your entire group of catechumens and godparents and affixed their nametags you are ready to be seated in your designated seats within the Shrine.

Seating

- The seating diagram for the Rite of Election is contained in this packet. Please note that parishes that have a smaller number of catechumens and godparents only have a part of a pew. A Shrine or Office of Liturgy Hospitality Minister will assist you in making sure that you are seated properly according to the seating chart.
- When the Catechumenate Director has gathered their catechumens and godparents they enter the narthex of the Shrine and will be greeted by a Shrine or Office of Liturgy Hospitality Minister. The Hospitality Minister will show you to your seats. Students from Bishop Moore High School will be distributing the Worship Aids. Be sure everyone in your group has one.
- **SPECIAL NOTE:** The Catechumenate Director or designated book bearer will need to be the First person in their group and they are to have their parish Book of the Elect ready to carry up during the presentation of the names to Bishop Noonan. The order for seating will be the bearer of the Book of the Elect, followed by the first catechumen, followed by their godparent and so on until you have reached the end of your catechumens and godparents.

<i>godparent</i>	<i>catechumen</i>	<i>Bearer of the Book of the Elect</i>	<i>godparent</i>	<i>catechumen</i>	<i>godparent</i>	<i>catechumen</i>	<i>Bearer of the Book of the Elect</i>	Aisle
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- Family members of the catechumens may not sit with their catechumen and must sit in the unreserved seats of the basilica.

The Rite

- After the homily we will present the catechumens who are to become the Elect of God. Each parish will be called by name. When the name of your parish is called, all the catechumens and godparents as well as the person holding the Book of the Elect are to stand and remain standing.
- After all the parishes have been called, Bishop Noonan will address the **godparents** with a series of questions to which they **should heartily respond “they have!”**
- Bishop Noonan will ask the **assembly** if they will support the testimony expressed by the godparents to which they **should respond “we are!”**
- Finally Bishop Noonan will ask the **catechumens** “do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist?” to which the catechumens **should reply clearly, and whole heartedly “We do.”**
- Please use the attached texts to practice the responses that will be given by the godparents and catechumens.
- Bishop Noonan will now ask them to offer their names for enrollment. All catechumens and godparents remain standing during this entire rite even after they have returned to their pews.

Coming forward with the Books of the Elect

- The Masters of Ceremonies (MC) will coordinate this to make sure all goes smoothly. When the MC comes to your parish, the book bearer leaves the pew to approach the Bishop. The catechumens follow with their godparents behind them. The Bishop will bless the names entered in the book (which should be held open), after which the book bearer moves to a place on the steps to the altar (MCs will lead you). Each catechumen will present themselves to the Bishop. **Godparents** will stand behind the catechumen with the **hand on their catechumen's shoulder**. SPECIAL NOTE: The Bishop will not greet the sponsor; only the catechumen. After Bishop Noonan greets the catechumen they move along back to pew by way of the side aisle (MCs will guide them to their proper seats where they will remain standing). Members of the assembly are to remain seated during this part of the ritual and not to position themselves in ways that would compromise the dignity of the ritual. **Non-flash pictures may be taken only from the pew in which the person taking the photograph is seated.** After the Liturgy is complete family members may take as many photos as they wish.

Bearers of the Book of the Elect returning to their seat after the Bishop declares the catechumens to be the Elect.

- At this point during the liturgy all of the book bearers will be on the steps of the altar and holding their Book of the Elect open at shoulder height. All catechumens and godparents would have returned to their seats after being greeted by the Bishop and are to remain standing.
- **Bishop Noonan will then declare** the catechumens to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil. **All respond enthusiastically with “Thanks be to God!”**
- Immediately following the acclamation “Thanks be to God,” the book bearers will hold their books up high and leave the altar area to return to their designated seats where their catechumens and godparents are. The book bearers, carrying their books, process down the aisles of the basilica holding their books up high as a witness to the assembly of the wonderful works God has done in electing these catechumens. Music will accompany this action.

Intercessions for the Elect and Conclusion

- The Rite of Election will conclude with the Intercessions for the Elect, Prayer over the Elect and Blessing and Dismissal.
- After the concluding song, people are free to take as many pictures as they wish however the bishop will not be available for pictures.

We wish you and your parish catechumens a season of abundant grace during the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

Peace to you,
Offices of Liturgy and Music
Directors and Staff