

Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election
Notes

PREPARATIONS _____

- *THE BOOK OF THE ELECT: during the Rite of Election, the Bishop is presented with the Book of the Elect from each parish that has catechumens. The signatures of each of the catechumens and sponsors are already in the Book of the Elect for the Rite of Election. Catechumens and Sponsors can either sign the book DURING the Rite of Sending or immediately afterwards.*
- *The signing should NOT take place on the altar, but rather another table or stand. The altar is reserved for the Body and Blood of Christ.*
- *If the signing takes place after the Rite of Sending, the book should still be displayed. The presider should make mention of the book during the Rite of Sending. It is an important ritual element and connection between the Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election. Make sure to have two pens available at the table (in case one doesn't work). If the Book asks for other information (name of Godparents, addresses, etc – have these filled out before Mass...only SIGNATURES during Mass)*
- *Have reserved seating in the front for the catechumens and their sponsors. They may be in the opening procession, but after bowing/genuflecting to the altar, they go right to their place. If they are not in the procession, they should be seated beforehand.*
- *Everything else in the Mass is celebrated normally until after the Homily.*

HOMILY _____

- *The presider should incorporate this celebration and the Rite of Election into his comments, although the homily is addressed to the ENTIRE community and not simply the catechumens.*

PRESENTATION OF CATECHUMENS _____

- *There is flexibility in how the catechumens are presented as far as the words used. If you adapt the text, write it out.*
- *There is flexibility in who presents the catechumens to the celebrant: "the priest in charge of the catechumens' initiation, or a deacon, a catechist, or a representative of the community..." it can be the PCL or an RCIA catechist.*
- *After the introductory words by the person presenting, the celebrant invites those will be called to come forward.*
- *Then the names are called by the person presenting the names and the people come forward.*
- *This format should be maintained, even though the words of the introduction may be modified. If there are multiple catechumens, do not name them during the introduction, but only after the presider replies to the introduction. If there is just one catechumen, he or she can be named in the introduction and simply come forward after the presider replies. The name is not spoken again after the reply.*

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS _____

- *The presider first begins by addressing the assembly. The presider should be aware of who he is addressing, turning his body as appropriate when needed. The words the presider uses may be adjusted from what is in the book.*
- *Then, he TURNS TOWARD THE GODPARENTS, and questions them: 3 questions. Note the difference in responses. "They have." Vs "We do"*
- *A way to cue the Godparents after you ask the particular question: "If so, say..."*

AFFIRMATION OF THE ASSEMBLY _____

- *This is optional, but again – ought to be done – so as the assembly, upon hearing the testimony of the Godparents, can voice their support. There is no set text in the Ritual for questioning the assembly. Again, the presider TURNS to address the assembly. [Not certain if the new rite will provide the text].*
- *Suggested text: “And now I ask you in this assembly: You have heard about the readiness of these catechumens. Do you accept this testimony and support them by your faith, prayer, and example as we move toward Easter? If so, say “we do.”*

SENDING _____

- *Set text by the ritual: “My dear catechumens, this community gladly recommends you to the bishop, who, in the name of Christ, will call you to the Easter sacraments. May God bring to completion the good work he has begun in you.” [Old translation].*

INSCRIPTION OF THE BOOK OF ELECT _____

- *This is optional – it is either done here or after Mass. See notes about the Preparations.*
- *If there are multiple catechumens, it might be good to have a song or sung refrain here.*
- *After they sign (or after the sending), the catechumens and their godparents return to the sanctuary steps or go to their seats (and remain standing) – depending on where they will be located for the Intercessions*

INTERCESSIONS FOR CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES _____

- *Intercessions for Mass are said in the customary way. In addition to the regular intercessions for Mass, multiple intercessions are made for the catechumens.*
- *Consider: will the catechumens be standing at the steps of the sanctuary with their sponsors, or will be have returned to their seats?*
- *One suggestion: put three or four of the intercessions for catechumens FIRST – beginning each petition with: “For our catechumens, that...” After these, list the regular intercessions for Mass*

PRAYER OVER CATECHUMENS _____

- *Done once, for everyone.*

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS _____

- *As usual.*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST _____

- *Mass continues the usual way with the Preparation of the Altar and Gifts.*
- *It is NOT appropriate for catechumens to bring forward the gifts. Sponsors may...*
- *The Creed may be omitted for Pastoral Reasons (again, keeping the format of the ritual simple so as not to confuse the assembly. The Creed usually comes before the Intercessions, not vice-versa).*