MEMORANDUM

Date: February 19, 2020

To: Pastors, RCIA Coordinators, DRE’s

From: Christian Initiation Team; Office of Worship; and Joseph Milner, Director, Office of Christian Initiation

Re: Rite of Election 2020; parish assignments

Registration for Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion has been completed and dates and times have been assigned to each parish that submitted a registration.

If you sent in your registration form to our office for the 2020 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion then your parish should be listed on the attached page and on our website: https://www.archstl.org/sacred-worship/liturgy-and-sacraments/rcia

If your parish is not listed, please contact me.

Please check the attachment or the website to be sure your parish is listed.

TIMES:
Saturday, February 29 – 1:30 pm
Sunday, March 1 – 2:30 pm

PREPARATIONS (reminders):

• Prepare name tags for the catechumens and the candidates. Differentiation in color of the name tags for catechumens and candidates is no longer required.

• Please read and become familiar with the instructions for co-ordinators concerning the “rubrics” of the Rite.

**Coordinators need to bring their parish “Book of the Elect” to call names of catechumens, and an extra sheet with names of candidates recorded to call for “Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion.”**
ARRIVAL AND SEATING:

It is suggested that you carpool since parking in the vicinity of the Cathedral Basilica is limited. **Pews** will be marked with **parish names** for only the catechumens, candidates, godparents or sponsors, and coordinator (or designated team member). The ushers at the Cathedral will be available to show you to your designated pews. The seating chart is being finalized and should be available next week.

Other team members, family and friends, may be seated in unmarked pews on the sides or at the rear of the Cathedral. Please inform family members ahead of time that they cannot sit in the designated seats so that no one becomes upset. The pew space has been calculated on the basis of **six people per pew**. If one of the catechumens/candidates/godparents/sponsors requires extra space, please let me know. The Sunday service will be very full and additional seating for family and other parishioners will be limited.

GATHERING RITE:

Forty minutes before the rite, Archbishop Carlson will be standing at the Baptismal Font in the East Transept to greet the catechumens and candidates. The coordinator brings forward **only** catechumens and candidates (not godparents or sponsors) for a **brief** introduction, e.g., “Archbishop, I am (name), the coordinator from (parish). These are our catechumens and candidates.” Let the individuals come forward to say their name and shake his hand.

COORDINATORS:

After the homily, coordinators will be invited to come forward. **Proceed to the side aisle that is on the Archbishop’s side of the sanctuary** (on the left). Do not approach the sanctuary through the center gates. Line up at the microphone in the order of arrival.

RITE OF ELECTION:

We will be using the order for the combined rite (**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, Appendix 1, #3). Para. 551, option B will be used for the affirmation by godparents and sponsors. The printed program will have the spoken text.

When the coordinators are in place, a designated person will present the catechumens to the presider. After he invites the catechumens and godparents to come forward, we will begin the calling of names.

CALLING OF NAMES:

We will call the names of the Elect from the microphone on the **Presider’s side of the sanctuary**. You say: “From (name of your parish), (the names of your catechumens).” Do not distinguish children from adults. The “Instructions for Coordinators” page gives detailed instructions about what you should do after you call the name of your Elect.
Please bring your parish Book of the Elect to call the names of the catechumens. Use a separate page to call candidates’ names (the paper will not be given to anyone, as part of the Rite).

**CATECHUMENS:**

As they hear their names called, catechumens and godparents should walk together to the gates of the communion rail in the center aisle. They will gather in the sanctuary facing the assembly. When all the names have been called, the presider will address the godparents and assembly (par. 552); then the catechumens (par. 553- 554). Encourage the catechumens to respond energetically. (A draft of the rite is attached to this email.)

After their responses and an affirmation from the assembly, the presider will declare “Then offer your names for enrollment”. As the music begins, lift your Book of the Elect high, with the names of the Elect showing toward the presider. Then slowly turn toward the assembly. Complete your rotation back toward the presider.

After the presider declares them Elect and offers a concluding statement, the Elect and their godparents will be directed by acolytes out of the sanctuary and return to their pews. The coordinators will go back to the microphones on BOTH sides of the sanctuary, for the Call to Continuing Conversion. If you do not have any candidates, coordinators return to their place in the assembly.

**CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION:**

As the music ends, the deacon will call the coordinators who have only candidates to present. The coordinators will be gathered on both sides of the sanctuary, and will begin to move to the microphones. The candidates will be presented to the presider (para. 555). As their names are called, the candidates and their sponsors come forward. They enter the sanctuary through the center gates of the railing.

Coordinators can return to their places as they finish calling candidates’ names. Please use the side aisle. The dialogue between the presider, sponsor, assembly and candidates follows (para. 556, opt. A). Encourage them to respond energetically. After an affirmation by the assembly, the candidates return to their seats as directed by the acolytes.

**CONCLUSION OF THE RITES:**

The liturgy concludes with intercessions, prayer over the Elect, a dismissal and the recessional hymn.

We expect the liturgy to last between an hour and an hour and a half depending on the number of names to be called at a particular rite.

**Please note that the Eucharist is not celebrated as part of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.** Attendance does not fulfill the Sunday obligation.
Additional details and instructions for the parish presenters are also attached to this email.

FOLLOWING THE RITE:

There is a memo attached from the Metropolitan Tribunal with information for the catechumens and candidates who have pending marriage cases. The Archbishop and a representative from the tribunal- will gather with them and offer a blessing following the Rite of Election in the Chapel of Our Lady. See the memo for further details.

SUGGESTED REFLECTION ON THE RITES:

When the Elect and candidates gather for the first session after the Rite, review the ritual in a prayerful, reflective way. Sing some parts of the music, describe the liturgical action, quote some lines from the readings, questions, responses, and prayers to recall the experience.

You may want to provide time for quiet reflection or journaling on some of these or similar questions: “During the celebration of the Rite, what did you hear/experience/feel that touched you the most?” “What does it mean to you to be “elected” by God?” “What did you experience?” “What images stand out in your memory?” “How are you challenged to live as a result of this ritual?”

Allow time for group sharing on both the Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion (Adapted from Ninety Days, Powel and Sinwell, Paulist Press, 1989).

Afternoon of Prayer and Reflection

The Archdiocesan Christian Initiation Team will be offering a morning of prayer and reflection on Saturday, March 21 from 9:00 am until 12:30. The focus will be Becoming New Creations in Christ. The goal of the morning is to provide those involved in the Christian Initiation process a time to reflect on the growth that God has given them and continues to offer them along with an opportunity to give thanks for all that God has done.

The requested donation is $7 a person. Catechumens, candidates, godparents, sponsors and team members are welcome to participate. There will be short reflections, time for personal prayer, and opportunities to share with others. The location will be confirmed shortly. To register, simply send a list of names to joemilner@archstl.org. Further details will be emailed and posted on the Office of Christian Initiation website:

https://www.archstl.org/sacred-worship/liturgy-and-sacraments/rcia
THANK YOU

Many thanks are due to coordinators and sponsors for the hours of preparation invested in preparing the catechumens and candidates for a meaningful spiritual journey.

Know that Archbishop Carlson, the Archdiocesan Initiation Team, the Office of Worship staff, and I are most grateful for your service, which will surely bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. May you have many blessings in your continued ministry to Christ’s Church.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Joseph Milner
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