

RCIA Directors and Catechists,

Regarding: Catechumens and Candidates with Pending Marriage Cases

There are many throughout the archdiocese who are preparing to enter the church this Easter but who are unsure if they will be welcomed or not due to their pending marriage cases. I recognize that the Rite of Election is an impressive event for those entering the church to experience the largeness of this church that they want to join. I also realize that those with pending marriage cases do not have the option to participate in the rite. They may choose not come and miss out on the experience of the “larger” church.

As a means to recognize their special situation the Presider and I will meet with this group of individuals immediately following the Rite of Election in the Blessed Mother Chapel (West of the main altar) to recognize their challenging situation and offer our support through a special blessing.

I ask that you personally invite those who are in your RCIA program but who are awaiting the results of their marriage case before they can enter into the church to come for this special blessing. I ask that you do this individually so as not to bring possibly undesired attention to their situation. At the end of the service the following announcement will be made to remind you of this service:

“As a reminder, the pre-arranged gathering with the Judicial Vicar will be in the Blessed Mother Chapel immediately following this service.”

While I am not the judge on most of their cases and I would not be able to speak about the specifics of their individual cases in this forum anyways, I am involved in all of the cases to some degree. I hope that this can put a face on the tribunal for them and help them recognize that God’s love and mercy is both broad and universal but also individual and concerned with them personally.

No reply is required to this letter. Only the individuals and their RCIA director or sponsor are invited to participate in this service to respect their privacy.

Yours in Christ,

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