

INSTRUCTIONS for the Rite of Election 2018

Dear Pastors, RCIA Coordinators, and RCIA Team Members:

Greetings from the Office of Liturgy!

Lent starts on February 14 – which means that it is almost time to celebrate the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion. As you know, the Rite will be celebrated twice this year: on the First Sunday of Lent (February 18) at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport and on the Second Sunday of Lent (February 25) at St. Mary in Ottumwa. Both liturgies will begin at 3:00 p.m. I just want to take a moment to highlight a few points:

- **The Rite of Election is *not optional* for catechumens.** In order to receive the Easter Sacraments, a catechumen must be elected by the Bishop—a sign of the catechumen’s election by God (see RCIA #119, 121). While the Bishop may delegate presidency of the Rite to another priest, the Rite itself is not optional. Therefore, to the extent possible, catechumens are to attend the scheduled Rite. Attendance at the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion, while encouraged, is not required.
 - Please see below for instructions regarding inclement weather.
 - If, for a serious reason, *an individual* is unable to attend the Rite of Election presided over by the Bishop, then the pastor is asked to request permission from the Bishop in writing to celebrate the Rite of Election *for that individual* at the parish. Those from the parish who are able to attend the Rite in Davenport or Ottumwa are still to do so.
- The **Parish Information Form** is to be completed electronically this year, and can be accessed at: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy/rite-of-election>.

We are asking only for counts; we will get names from you later for inclusion in the *Messenger* as usual. Please submit the form by February 1 at the latest.

Before completing the form, please make sure that all impediments to receiving the Easter Sacraments have been removed prior to sending a candidate or catechumen to these Rites. Please also make sure that your catechumens and candidates know in which group they belong; in the past, we have had individuals come up in both lines! Also, we must in no way ever detract from the baptism that the candidates received in the past. Therefore, it is crucial that you *not* include their names in the Book of the Elect: as the baptized, they have already been elected! **Also, at the Rite, please do not read the names of individuals who are not present at the Rite;** only those who are actually being called by the Bishop should be named. (If a person is not present at the Diocesan Rite, then the pastor should celebrate the appropriate Rite in the parish – with proper permission in the case of a catechumen.)

Questions, comments, or concerns, may be directed to Deacon Frank Agnoli at 563-888-4257.

An outline of the Rite is available at:

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2017/11/OUTLINE%20OF%20THE%20RITE%202018.pdf>

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INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INCLEMENT WEATHER and the RITE OF ELECTION

Poor weather at this time of year may make it difficult or dangerous for individuals or parish groups to make it to the Rite of Election, or may force a cancellation of the celebration of the Rite altogether.

If the celebration of the Rite at the Cathedral (2/18) is cancelled, those who are able should attend the Rite in Ottumwa (2/25). If doing so, please let the Office of Liturgy know.

If it is truly not possible for a parish to attend on the alternate date, or if the Rite in Ottumwa is cancelled, then Bishop Zinkula will grant the faculty to preside over the Rite of Election in the parish to the pastor.

Rites to be used

If the Rites are to be celebrated in the parish, the orders of service are found in the RCIA ritual text, §§118-137 (Rite of Election), §§ 446-458 (Rite of Calling Candidates to Continuing Conversion), and §§ 547-561 (combined rite).

Notifications

If you will not be able to attend the Rite of Election, please call me at 563-349-2577.

If the weather seems severe enough that the Rite might be cancelled, please check the following (you may want to check more than one source in case we are having technical issues):

1. Dial (563) 324-1912 and press three during any part of the receptionist's message.
2. Check the Diocesan website home page – www.davenportdiocese.org
3. Check the Diocesan Facebook page – [www.facebook/diodav](https://www.facebook.com/diodav)

In addition, I will try to e-mail the parishes once a decision to cancel has been made. Also, please feel free to call me before heading out if you want to double check.

Deacon Frank Agnoli