



MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2011

FROM: Rev. Paul F. deLadurantaye
Diocesan Secretary for Religious Education

TO: **Pastors, DREs/CREs, RCIA Coordinators,
Children's Catechumenate Coordinators,
High School & College Chaplains,**

SUBJECT: **2012 Rite of Election
Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Thomas More**

*If you have any questions after reading this memo, please call me or my secretary, Karen Buentello at 703/841-2552. The RCIA materials may also be viewed on the Diocesan website at www.arlingtondiocese.org under *Worship/ Becoming a Catholic / RCIA/RCIA Forms.**

Once again we invite and encourage you to participate in the annual Rite of Election and the call to continuing conversion of candidates for full communion in the Church. Participants consistently find this to be a truly meaningful and moving experience of the larger Church community, and a significant event in their faith journey. This memo provides the information you will need in order to arrive at the Cathedral prepared to celebrate the Rite.

1. DAY AND TIME.

This year, Bishop Loverde will preside at two celebrations of the Rite of Election. One will be celebrated on **Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, and the second will be held on **Sunday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m.**, also at the Cathedral. The Rites will be celebrated in the context of the Liturgy of the Word. **There will be no Liturgy of the Eucharist. All are invited to a reception** in the parish hall (located downstairs below the Cathedral) immediately following the celebration of the Rite of Election.

2. REGISTRATION.

If your parish plans to participate, please send to this office, **no later than Friday, February 17, a list, in alphabetical order by last name, of catechumens and candidates for full communion, as well as your choice of the date that you prefer.** A form for this purpose is enclosed. Please return these lists by email, if possible to k.buentello@arlingtondiocese.org. Receiving the forms **before or on the deadline** is important. **Seats will be assigned in the order in which parish forms are received.** Please indicate on the form which celebration your catechumens/candidates would like to attend. It may not be possible to guarantee your first choice, in which case the Office of Catechetics will contact you. A timely response is also necessary in order for the names of parish catechumens/candidates to be received before the Rite program is printed.

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Be advised that if the names of the catechumens/candidates are not received by 12:00 p.m. on February 17, they will not appear in the program. Please convey this information to your catechumens/candidates. It is very important that the Office of Catechetics receives the names of all catechumens/candidates, as seating cannot be guaranteed for those whose names do not appear on the enclosed form. Please provide the **total number of persons** (*this includes 1 sponsor per participant as well*) coming from your parish in the space provided at the bottom of the enclosed form.

3. OUTLINE OF THE ORDER OF THE RITE.

A copy of the outline of the Rite of Election is attached for your information.

4. WHAT TO BRING.

Parishes should bring the Book of the Elect in which are recorded the names of those catechumens who will receive the three Sacraments of Initiation this year. **Please note: only the names of the unbaptized should be recorded in this book.** Each parish should designate one catechumen who will present the Book of the Elect to the Bishop. This representative may sit with the parish group but should sit on the aisle. It is suggested that, prior to the Rite itself, the parish DRE or coordinator familiarize the chosen representative with the ritual surrounding the presentation of the Book of the Elect.

5. ARRIVAL AND SEATING.

Upon arrival at the Cathedral, groups are asked to **proceed directly to the worship area.** Ushers and greeters will be on hand to ensure that all arriving will be directed to the proper church entrance (**Rectory, Convent or Main**) as determined by your assigned seating. Blocks of pews will be reserved for parishes based on the number of candidates and catechumens. The actual number of seats per catechumen/candidate depends on how many participate. The Cathedral seating capacity is 1,200 persons.

6. WHO MAY ATTEND.

Again, blocks of seats will be assigned in the order in which parish forms are received. Since two Rites will be celebrated this year, each catechumen or candidate will have the possibility of inviting a spouse or other immediate family members to attend, in addition to his or her sponsor and pastor. Celebrations involving extended families and/or friends are encouraged to precede or follow the Rite. Parish clergy are invited to accompany the catechumens, candidates and sponsors who attend from their parish, and to sit with them during the Rite.

7. PARKING.

Because parking space in the Cathedral parking lot is limited, and towing is often enforced in areas surrounding the Cathedral, carpooling is recommended. There are several fast food restaurants 1/2 block east of the Cathedral, at the intersection of Cathedral Lane and Glebe Road should you need refreshment prior to the Rite. Several mailing lists are being used to ensure that this memo gets to all who are in any way responsible for preparing candidates and catechumens for full communion in the Catholic Church. **Please help us by sharing a copy of this memo with anyone else in your parish who serves in this capacity.**

Thank you for all you do for the Church in Arlington.

Enclosures