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**5th Sunday of Lent
March 17-18, 2018**

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Questions, Comments Suggestions?
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Living Catholic in the 808: Scrutinies and Exorcisms

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Hopefully you've had the chance this Lent to be present at Sunday Mass when some of our elect, our unbaptized faithful, have participated in the scrutinies and the rites of exorcism. What we see happening during these rites is not as Hollywood or the Oxford Dictionary would suggest.

Through the scrutinies, God's Word uncovers and then heals all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect and brings out and strengthens all that is upright, strong and good. And, in the rite of exorcism, the elect are freed from the effects of sin and from the influence of the devil. (Adapted from RCIA 141 and 144)

In short, the scrutinies and exorcisms give our elect, our unbaptized faith-filled members, new strength in the midst of their spiritual journey.

As baptized Catholics Christians, the scrutinies and exorcisms (and even the season of Lent!) remind us that you and I have ALREADY been freed from the power of sin. Baptism makes us new creatures, giving us the power to live and act under the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

THIS is the (evangelization) message we share with others – we need no longer be controlled by evil, by addictions, by suffering, by weakness. Others need to know what our elect know – that sin and death can be conquered through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!