



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

Memorandum

TO: All Pastors, Parishes & RCIA Coordinators

FROM: Rev. Alfred Omar Guerrero, Director

DATE: January 16, 2025

RE: Rites of Election & List of Catechumens (Due: Feb 11, 2025**)**

We are beginning our preparations for the 2025 Lenten Season and the celebrations of the Rite of Election. Please note that the Rite of Election will be celebrated at the following times and locations:

Kauai Vicariate: Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, Lihue (Mass with Vicar Forane).

Maui Vicariate: Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church in Wailuku (Mass with Bishop Larry Silva).

East Hawai'i Vicariate: Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Hilo (Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word with Vicar Forane).

West Hawai'i Vicariate: Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Kailua-Kona (Mass with Vicar Forane).

Oahu Vicariates: Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, Honolulu (Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word with Bishop Larry Silva).

For the parishes on the islands of Lanai and Molokai, Bishop Larry Silva has decided to delegate (OCIA no. #12 & 121) each pastor to preside over the Rite of Election in his own parish on the weekend of the First Sunday of Lent. In these parishes, the Rite of Election is celebrated as part of the Liturgy of the Word during the celebration of the Sunday Mass, and the Elect (and all other catechumens) are dismissed for further reflection on the readings before the recitation of the Creed. The rite can be found in the **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** book paragraphs #118-136.

We are requesting that you submit the names of the catechumens your parish will be sending to participate in the Rite of Election on the enclosed form no later than **Tuesday, February 11, 2025** to guarantee their names be listed in the Hawaii Catholic Herald. Catechumens are those who are unbaptized and preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Please send your list by email to

alguerrero@rcchawaii.org. If you don't have any catechumens this year, send the form anyway making a mark in the box labeled 'NONE'.

While it is not necessary to supply the individual names of candidates for Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church, do provide us with the number of candidates on the same form. For the Oahu parishes, please include the total number of people you anticipate will attend the Rite of Election from your parish.

Although candidates for Full Communion do not participate in the Rite of Election itself, **they are welcome to attend as part of the baptized assembly and to support those preparing for baptism.**

Parishes are also reminded to bring your *Book of the Elect* unsigned to the celebration. During the Rite, the catechumens will sign their names in the *Book of the Elect*. Then the Pastor or OCIA coordinator will present the book to the Bishop (or Vicar Forane) for his signature.

Parishes are encouraged to use the Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election (OCIA #106-117) in their Sunday liturgy prior to the Rite of Election.

Clergy will not vest for the celebration of the Rite of Election where it is a Liturgy of the Word (except for the Vicars Forane) but are encouraged to participate with the members of their parish.

The *Order of Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age* only applies to those children who have attained the use of reason but who have not yet completed the fourteenth year. Those catechumens to be enrolled as elect, who are fourteen years of age and older should participate in the Rite of Election. It is optional for those who are under thirteen and under. Also, please remember that the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) for adults and children of catechetical age (age 7 or older) should take place at the Easter Vigil itself.

It is preferable that reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church not take place at the Easter Vigil; however, if it is celebrated, the appropriate combined rite should be used found in the appendix to the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

As a reminder during the period of the catechumenate a rite of anointing the catechumens, through the use of the oil of catechumens, may be celebrated whenever this seems beneficial or desirable. The presiding celebrant for such a first anointing of the catechumens is a priest or a deacon" (OCIA #98). Priests and deacons should arrange for such anointing at least once during the catechumenate, following the directives in OCIA #98 – 103. This pre-baptismal anointing should not take place at the Easter Vigil for adults or children of catechetical age.

Please feel free to contact me at the Office of Worship, 808-585-3342 or email at alguerrero@rcchawaii.org should you have any questions. Blessings!

