

RITE OF ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

The rite of election and the enrollment of names closes the period of the catechumenate, the lengthy period of formation of the catechumen's minds and hearts. This rite which coincides with the opening of Lent, marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which the elect will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity. (p118)

This step is called election because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts. The step is also called the enrollment of names because as a pledge of fidelity the candidates inscribes their names in the book that list those who have been chosen for initiation. (p119)

Admission to election belongs to the Bishop, and the presiding celebrant for the rite of election is the bishop himself or a priest who acts as the bishop's delegate. (p121) The Rite is celebrated within Mass, after the homily, and should be celebrated within the Mass of the First Sunday of Lent. (p128)

After the homily, the person in charge of the catechumens presents the candidate, using the following or similar words.

Catechist: Reverend Monsignor/Father, Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom I now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

Now they ask that after the celebration of the Scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Celebrant: **Those who are to be chosen in Christ, come forward, together with your godparents.**

The candidate is called by name, accompanied by a godparent comes forward and stands before the celebrant.

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS AND THE ASSEMBLY

The celebrant addresses the assembly.

***Celebrant:* God's holy Church wishes to know whether these candidates are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter. And so, I speak first of all to you their godparents.**

Addressing the godparents.

***Celebrant:* Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?**

***Godparents:* They have.**

***Celebrant:* Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?**

***Godparents:* They have.**

***Celebrant:* Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?**

***Godparents:* They have.**

Addressing the assembly.

***Celebrant:* And now I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:**

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

***All:* We are.**

INVITATION AND ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

Addressing the catechumens in the following or similar words, advises them of their acceptance and asks them to declare their own intention.

Celebrant: And now, my dear catechumens, I address you.

**Your own godparents and teachers,
and this entire community have spoken in your favor.
The Church in the name of Christ accepts their judgement
and calls you to the Easter sacraments.**

**Since you have already heard the call of Christ,
you must now express your response to that call clearly
and in the presence of the whole Church.**

**Therefore, do you wish to enter fully
into the life of the Church through the sacraments
of baptism, confirmation and the eucharist?**

Catechumens: *We do.*

Celebrant: **Then offer your names for enrollment.**

During these unprecedented times, the inscribing of names take place before the rite. The enrollment may simply consist in the presentation of a list of names to the celebrant, with such words as: "These are the names of the candidates..."

The Book of the Elect is enthroned in a suitable place.

ACT OF ADMISSION OR ELECTION

The celebrant may briefly explain the significance of the enrollment that has just taken place. Then, turning to the candidates, says the following:

Celebrant: **N. and N.,
I now declare you to be members of the Elect,
to be initiated into the sacred mysteries
at the next Easter Vigil**

Candidates: *Thanks be to God.*

Celebrant: **God is always faithful to those he calls:
now it is your duty, as it is ours,
both to be faithful to him in return
and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth,
which your election opens up before you.**

Addressing the godparents and instructing them in the following words.

Celebrant: **Godparents,
you have spoken in favor of these catechumens:
accept them now as chosen in the Lord
and continue to sustain them
through your loving care and example,
until they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.**

The celebrant invites the godparents to place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate whom they are receiving into their care, or to make some other gesture to indicate the same intent. [For example: a profound bow with each other]

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT ALONG WITH THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters,
in beginning this period of Lent,
we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving
mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection.

**These elect, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments,
will look to us for an example of Christian renewal.
Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves that we
may be renewed by one another's efforts
and together come to share the joys of Easter.**

Lector: That together we may fruitfully employ this Lenten season
to renew ourselves through self-denial and works of holiness.
We pray to the Lord.

That our elect may always remember
this day of their election and be grateful for the blessings
they have received from heaven.
We pray to the Lord.

That their catechist may always convey
the beauty of God's word to those who search for it.
And their godparents may be living examples of the Gospel.
We pray to the Lord.

That their families, far from placing any obstacles
in the way of these catechumens,
may help them to follow the promptings of the Spirit.
We pray to the Lord.

That our community during this Lenten period,
may grow in charity and be constant in prayer.
We pray to the Lord.

Intentions from the parish may be added. The intercession for the elect along with the prayers of the faithful concludes with the Prayer over the Elect.

PRAYER OVER THE ELECT

Celebrant: **Lord God,
you created the human race
and are the author of its renewal.
Bless all your adopted children
and add these chosen ones
to the harvest of your new covenant.**

**As true children of the promise,
may they rejoice in eternal life,
won, not by the power of nature,
but through the mystery of your grace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

The elect is dismissed after the Prayers over the Elect

Celebrant: **My dear elect, you have set out with us on the road
that leads to the glory of Easter.
Christ will be your way, your truth and your life.
Until we meet again for the scrutinies,
walk always in his peace.**

Elect: **Amen.**

An appropriate song or instrumental music may conclude the celebration. The Profession of Faith is omitted. The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows.

