

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Director**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION INFORMATION
PERIODIC MAILING
FEBRUARY 2014**

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Additional information on the Christian Initiation of adults can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship, under the heading *Christian Initiation*:

<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/worship.htm>

Please contact the Office for Divine Worship at 215-587-3537 or worship@adpbila.org with any questions.

REMINDERS

- **Full Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first reception of Communion—apart from the Solemn Paschal Vigil, outside the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see RCIA, no. 331).** Archbishop Chaput delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.
- **All baptized non-Catholic children over the age of seven** whose parents/guardians wish for them to come into full communion with the Catholic Church do so with the rites for the *Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church* (see RCIA, nos. 473-504). So, children, baptized as non-Catholics, receive Confirmation and Communion in the same celebration when they are received into the Catholic Church. The *Profession of Faith* within the rite and the *Act of Reception* are essential elements of this rite.
- **Orthodox Christians** are received into full communion of the Catholic Church with a Profession of Faith (see RCIA, no. 474). For assistance in this regard, see *Admission of an Orthodox Christian into the Catholic Church in Other than their Parallel Ritual Church*:

<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/pdf/AdmissionofOrthodoxChristian.pdf>

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE RITE OF ELECTION
AND OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

The *Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* will take place in three sessions during the weekend of the First Sunday of Lent, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia:

Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 2:30 PM

Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 2:30 PM

Details regarding the *Celebration of the Rite of Election and of the Call to Continuing Conversion* have been distributed by e-mail in January 2014 to all parish Liturgy Contacts, parish Christian Initiation Coordinators, and DRE's, and can also be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship.

The Call to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (and not children) who are baptized and will be received into full communion or be confirmed and/or receive Holy Communion for the first time but also have distanced themselves from the Faith. In other words, a baptized formerly church going Protestant or a practicing Catholic who will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or the Eucharist during Easter Time does not typically participate in the Call to Continuing Conversion.

Parishes are encouraged to observe the *Sending of Catechumens for Election* (see RCIA, nos. 106-117) or the *Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion* (see RCIA, nos. 434-445) or the *Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop* (see RCIA, nos. 530-546), depending on the local circumstances, the week or so before the *Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates* on the First Sunday of Lent at the Cathedral Basilica.

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST AT THE SOLEMN PASCHAL VIGIL

In accord with the United States *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* (November 11, 1986) no. 33, Archbishop Chaput asks that you note:

Only the adult elect, that is, the unbaptized catechumens elected at the Rite of Election, are to be fully initiated with Baptism, Confirmation and reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord at the Solemn Paschal Vigil, according to the rites outlined in the *Roman Missal*. Children may also be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Baptized non-Catholic Christians are to be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday or any Sunday of Easter Time. In fact, this reception can take place almost any time during the Church Year according to the rite outlined in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (see RCIA, nos. 473-504). No additional permission is required for this Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

For many parishes, this practice continues to represent an innovation that requires catechesis on the dignity of Baptism and the avoidance of any confusion between candidates for Baptism and baptized Christians.

Candidates for the *Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church* should be encouraged to participate in the Easter Vigil, especially with a distinct place to sit among the faithful and acknowledged by the priest celebrant.

RECEPTION OF BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS (CANDIDATES) INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* allows for people baptized in another Church or ecclesial community, although never treated as catechumens, to benefit from the doctrinal and spiritual formation for the unbaptized. Additionally, the use of the Combined Rites for catechumens and candidates gives the candidates an important sense of the Sacred Liturgy and participation with the Church leading to Confirmation and Communion. However, many candidates do not require a full program parallel to the catechumenate. Therefore, the directives provided in the US *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* for reception into full communion (see nos. 30-37) should be increasingly observed.

The rite for the *Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church* is found in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (see RCIA, nos. 473-504). Preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for baptized non-Catholics are an essential element of their Reception (See RCIA, no. 482).

Reception of Candidates and Valid Baptism and Conditional Baptism

All non-Catholic Christians seeking full communion must be validly baptized. The following norm is to be observed in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with regard to the reception of candidates into full communion with the Catholic Church:

Baptism is the doorway to all of the Sacraments. Therefore, the sacred minister needs moral certitude that a person was baptized with the Trinitarian formula and the triple water pouring/immersion before other Sacraments are celebrated. This moral certitude requires more than the evidence of a baptismal certificate and must be the case in each individual circumstance. Such moral certitude can often be readily obtained through inquiry with the candidate. When moral certitude is lacking, a conditional Baptism is necessary (see Canon 869 and National Statutes for the Catechumenate 37).

Additional information on valid baptism and conditional baptism can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

CONFIRMATION FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC ADULTS

The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation for baptized Roman Catholics is the Bishop. Typically, this occurs during the pastoral visit of the Bishop to the parish. ***Every effort should be made to prepare Catholic Adults for Confirmation to participate in the parish celebration with the Bishop.***

Additionally, Archbishop Chaput will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2014 during the 6:30 PM Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. The candidates for this sacramental celebration are baptized Roman Catholics who have been properly catechized for Confirmation (and if needed, for the reception of First Communion). Information about this celebration for pastors and those who assist with the formation and reception of the Sacraments of Initiation has been distributed by e-mail this month, February 2014, to all parish Liturgy Contacts, parish Christian Initiation Coordinators, and DRE's, and can also be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship.

If for some serious reason, a school age baptized Roman Catholic is unable to be confirmed by the Bishop during his pastoral visit to the parish, then this candidate, with the permission of the pastor, may be presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. The pastor's permission is to be included with the registration forms to be sent to the Office for Divine Worship.

A pastor who foresees the genuine pastoral need to confirm an adult baptized Roman Catholic can do so only with the specific delegation of the Bishop (see Canon 882 and *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, nos. 28-29). Archbishop Chaput gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm Roman Catholic Adults on any occasion from Palm Sunday through Pentecost Sunday. This delegation is required for the validity of the Sacrament in the case of a Roman Catholic candidate. If you have any questions about this faculty, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. There is no need for an additional letter requesting this faculty during the period specified by the Archbishop.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

PLANNING FOR THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery. This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior (RCLA, see nos. 138-139).

- **If catechumens were unable, for one reason or another, to participate in the Rite of Election** on the First Sunday of Lent, the pastor should elect them, keeping in mind numbers 127-128 of the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.
- The **scrutinies** for the elect during Lent are not optional and should be carried out with a proper explanation to the elect and to the faithful. The description of the scrutinies, as found in nos. 141-143 of the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, can be helpful explanations for the elect and the faithful. Typically, the scrutinies are celebrated with the proper ritual Mass in the *Roman Missal, For the Celebration of the Scrutinies*, on the

Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The Year A readings are always used for the scrutinies. If the scrutinies cannot be celebrated on the proper Sunday, then a weekday celebration is possible with the same ritual Mass and the proper Year A readings.

- The **penitential rites** (scrutinies) for children who have reached catechetical age, as described in numbers 291-303 of the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, belongs to the Lenten journey of unbaptized children to be fully initiated at the Solemn Paschal Vigil.
- The *penitential rite* on the Second Sunday of Lent for baptized uncatechized adults preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist as described in numbers 459-472 in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, should be seriously considered in the plan for Lent.

- The **presentations** are very much tied into the scrutinies and follow their schedule. The presentations of the Creed and the Our Father aid in the enlightenment of the elect. The presentation of the Creed follows the First Scrutiny. The elect are to commit the Creed to memory and they will recite it publicly on Holy Saturday morning prior to their evening Baptism. The presentation of the Our Father with the proclamation of the Gospel follows the third scrutiny. The elect recite the Our Father publicly for the first time when they are assembled among the baptized at the Eucharist of the Easter Vigil. These weekday presentations should include the participation of some of the faithful. The handing out of parchments with these living expressions of the Faith is discouraged.

- A **retreat** should be arranged during Lent for the Elect. Also, the candidates for Full Communion and Catholic Adult candidates for Confirmation and Communion may also be part of this retreat. The retreat should include a presentation on Lent and its relationship to the celebration of the Easter Sacraments and the Christian Life, focused prayer and guided reflection sessions. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation could be made available to the already baptized candidates. An archdiocesan retreat for the Elect and Candidates for the Easter Sacraments is scheduled for April 12, 2014 at the Malvern Retreat House. For more information and to register, please see:
<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/pdf/RCIARetreat2014Malvern.pdf>

- The **preparation rites on Holy Saturday** should be observed, in some part, according to numbers 185 to 204 in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Most of all, the elect should be encouraged to participate in the paschal fast (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, article 110) all through Holy Saturday.

RECORD KEEPING

The following registers are to be maintained diligently with regard to required information and record keeping:

Register of Catechumens, after the Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (see RCIA, no. 46);

Book of Elect, prior to the Rite of Election (see RCIA, no. 132);

Register for Baptism, after the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (see Christian Initiation, General Introduction, no. 29);

Register for Full Communion of the Catholic Church (see RCIA, no. 486).

COMMUNICATION WITH THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

Communication on the Deanery level is being established between the Office for Divine Worship and the parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese with regard to Christian Initiation. Representatives from each of the Deaneries have volunteered to communicate on behalf of the office with all those who collaborate with their pastors in the ministry of Christian Initiation. Hopefully, this will insure that communications from the office will reach many more of those involved in all aspects of Christian Initiation.