

**This week's answers:**

1. **a)** Alleluia is a joyful and triumphant word. It conveys the triumph of Jesus' resurrection over death and sin. During Lent, we concentrate on what sin has cost Jesus and how best God can help us turn away from it. We sing and proclaim "Alleluia!" before the Gospel once again during the Easter Vigil.
2. **b)** The sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation welcome the new Christian into the Body of Christ and begin his/her life of grace through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, nourished by the Holy Eucharist. During the Easter Vigil- the great celebration that welcomes the dawning of Easter Sunday- we welcome new members into Christ's Body by conferring upon them these sacraments of initiation.
3. **d)** The word, "catechumen" comes from Galatians 6:6 and means one who is instructed. It is a Greek word. Catechumens in the early Church prepared through years of instruction, fasting, penances, and prayer.
4. **a)** Sponsors represent the rest of the Church. Their role is to be a companion for the catechumen, sharing in his/her journey, answering questions, listening to concerns, sharing faith stories, and ensuring that the catechumen understands and accepts the requirements of the Catholic life of faith.
5. **b)** The local bishop presides at the Rite of Election because he is the leader of the local Church, and represents the entire Church. His presence and the "election" of these men and women represents God's choosing of them.