



Memorandum

To: Pastors, OCIA Coordinators
From: Erin McGeever, Director of Christian Formation *EmcG*
Re: Rite of Election and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion
Date: January 26, 2026

The celebration of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion will take place on four dates: February 22, February 28 (9:30 am and 1:00 pm) and March 1, 2026 in the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Augustine. Some special notes and reminders:

† Rite of Sending Forth:

This parish celebration is to take place prior to the Celebration of the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. If you have only catechumens in your process, please use numbers 106 through 117 in the ritual book. If your process has only candidates for full communion, please use numbers 434 through 445 in the ritual book. If you are working with both catechumens and candidates for full communion, please use the combined rite found at numbers 530 through 546 in the ritual book. These paragraph numbers remain the same in the revised OCIA

† Rite of Election:

The celebration of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, which completes the previously mentioned rites, is dressy occasion which calls for appropriate attire. You should assure that your people are aware of this. There will be a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. This will be followed by dialogue between Bishop Pohlmeier and the sponsors, godparents, candidates, and catechumens. This will be done in groups due to the large numbers we expect to attend. Please make sure that all people know that this is **NOT a Mass**.

† Times

The two Sunday celebrations on February 22 and March 1 will take place at 2:00 pm. On Saturday, March 15, the celebration will take place at 9:30 am. OCIA Coordinators should meet their catechumens, candidates and the sponsors in the west courtyard of the Cathedral. (left side facing) **Once the entire group has arrived and is settled, the coordinator should lead them to the main doors of the Cathedral for admittance. The main doors will not be open until one half hour prior to the celebration. Coordinators should begin to arrive 45 minutes prior to the celebrations to meet and greet their catechumens and candidates.**

† Parking

Parking at the Cathedral Basilica is always a challenge and it is a good idea to carpool. The meters on Sunday are free now only until 1:00 pm, but remain the economical option close to the Cathedral. The best free place to park is at the Cathedral Parish School lot, located 2 blocks from the Cathedral down St. George Street. The gates will be open for the four celebrations.

The parking lot for Trinity Episcopal Church (across the square) is also reasonably priced, but they frequently have Parish events that close that lot.

† **Seating**

Reserved seating for the Rite of Election is for catechumens/candidates together with their godparent or sponsor only! Each sponsor will be seated next to their candidate. Books will be marked within the pew, so it should be easy for everyone to find their seat. **Please do not rearrange the booklets or the seating.** A seat is also reserved for both the pastor and his OCIA Coordinator at the end of the pew so that they can easily exit the pew and present their people to Bishop Pohlmeier. The pews are marked for these people only. Make sure your catechumens and candidates know the name of your parish. This lack of knowledge slows up the seating process.

† **Guest Seating**

Catechumens, candidates, sponsors, pastors, and OCIA Coordinators will **occupy 100%** of the seating in the Cathedral. The limited guest space will be in the chapel. This is about 80 seats per celebration. Please make sure your people are aware. No one can stand in the aiseways due to fire regulations. All four celebrations will be livestreamed to a large screen in the chapel and on the Cathedral Facebook page.

† **The Pastor/OCIA Coordinator/Parish Representative**

The pastor and/or OCIA coordinator will bring the catechumens and candidates forward to Bishop Pohlmeier and the Bishop will greet each of the candidates and catechumens. This is a time for the Bishop to meet and bless the catechumens and candidates. Sponsors should allow this to happen as they should be walking behind their candidate. The signing of the books by Bishop Pohlmeier takes place immediately after this. The pastor and/or the OCIA Coordinator bring up the Book of the Elect that the catechumens and candidates have signed at the parish. Directions will be given from the podium.

† **Photography**

The Office of Christian Formation provides a photographer for the celebration as well as for a parish photo following. Catechumens and candidates should remain seated after the celebration and wait to be called for the group's shots. All photographs will be made available through the parishes for distribution. **There is no other photography/videotaping/filming allowed.** Please make sure all guests know this so that there is no awkwardness if an usher must make a correction. **The behavior of all people from your parish is the responsibility of the pastor or OCIA Coordinator, not the Cathedral volunteers. We ask for your assistance and cooperation on this.**

† **Reception**

There will be a reception in the courtyard directly behind the Cathedral following the group pictures. Sponsors and guests should head directly to reception following the closing song.