



RCIA Newsletter - Our Lenten Journey

Thank you to the many individuals who minister year-round in our diocese as members of parish RCIA Teams. We appreciate your dedication and pray that during this holy season of Lent you will be able to enter fully into the paschal mystery, so as to be filled with joy as we celebrate the Resurrection.

Reflecting on the Rite of Election

Bishop Knestout presided across our diocese to welcome **138 adults and 303 children** at our three Rite of Elections last weekend. For those catechumens who were able to be present, they are sure to have experienced moments of personal prayer, grace and joy.

DON'T MOVE ON without "unpacking" their experience. RCIA is a ministry of journey and reflection (mystagogy). Take the opportunity this week during your prayer time with them to revisit this sacred rite.

We have created a resource you may use to guide your group's reflection.

[Click for Reflection Resource](#)

*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*



*Rite of Election at
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Salem
Bishop Knestout is pictured with the newly
Elect from St. Gerard, Roanoke*

More Photos from the Rite of Election:

Western Vicariate:
<http://bit.ly/2019roeWest>

Central Vicariate:
<http://bit.ly/2019roeCentral>

*courageously to reach the fullness of truth,
which your election opens up before you.
(RCIA, 133)*

Eastern Vicariate:
<http://bit.ly/2019roeEast>



*Rite of Election at the
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.
Shown are the RCIA team members,
representing 17 parishes, holding
the Book of the Elect.*



*Rite of Election Procession at
Church of the Holy Family, VA Beach*

*A full church gathered to pray for
and support the Elect.*

Period of Purification and Enlightenment



Ash Wednesday marks the start of a new liturgical season for the whole church, including our Elect. This time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving finds its purpose when we look to the end - celebration of the Paschal Mystery during the Triduum. The Rite of Christian Initiation supports this prayerful journey with multiple rites for the Elect to experience:

Presentation of the Creed
Presentation of the Lord's Prayer
Scrutinies Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday

See paragraphs 138 - 205 in the [Rites book](#), and look for ways to include your whole parish!

Suggested article: [Do Your Parishioners Love or Dread the Lenten RCIA Rites?](#)

The Scrutinies - Why?

The ritual book for the RCIA describes the scrutinies as follows:

“The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose.

The scrutinies are meant to

- uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect...;
- to bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong and good...
- to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan,
- to protect them against temptation, and
- to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.



These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all” (No. 141). What a powerful prayer ritual during this period of the RCIA!

[How to Celebrate the Scrutinies without Scaring the Catechumens](#)

Smile - God Loves You!



*Bishop Knestout with the Elect from
St. Augustine, Chesterfield*

*Don't miss the other Rite of Election
photos! See the links listed earlier in this
newsletter.*

Send Us Your Favorite Photos

Share your favorite photo of initiation from your parish this year. Just attach it to the email below, stating your name, parish name, and a one sentence description of what is taking place.

We want to see photos from:
Scrutinies, Easter Vigil, Rite of Welcome,
Rite of Acceptance, Blessing of
Catechumens, Service Projects, Family
Meals, Retreat Days, etc.

Send them to:
rcia@richmonddiocese.org
Attn: Sheri Kemp

Have questions about RCIA?

Contact:
Sheri Kemp
rcia@richmonddiocese.org
(804) 622-5113.

Visit our website

Missed last month's newsletter with articles
on preparing for the Rite of Election?
You can find it on our website!