



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 8, 2021

Dear Pastors and Parochial Administrators,

This year I hereby delegate all pastors and parochial administrators to preside at the Rite of Election and/or the Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion in their parishes for their catechumens and/or candidates on a date of their choosing from February 18, 2021 through February 28, 2021.

The Rite of Election and the Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion are typically large celebrations in which numerous parishes gather for these important steps bringing catechumens and candidates into the period of Lent. To protect people from the pandemic, in 2021 I am delegating pastors and parochial administrators to conduct these rites in the parish, abiding by all responsible public health protocols.

I will provide on the diocesan website a brief video the elect and candidates can view from home shortly before the rite, discussing the importance of these steps. Then, on or near the first Sunday in Lent, each pastor with catechumens and/or candidates will conduct the Rite of Election and/or the Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion in their own parishes.

Though the Rite “should be celebrated within the Mass of the First Sunday of Lent” RCIA #128 provides flexibility which pastors may find helpful since the Annual Catholic Appeal is scheduled for that weekend. Livestreaming the Rite will allow broader participation of the parish community should pandemic precautions preclude a large assembly.

Pastors do not need to submit a list of names to my office. The Rite of Sending is omitted entirely (see RCIA #106). In the next week, the Diocesan RCIA Committee will provide you instructions and a script to aid you in preparing the liturgy.

Through the intercessions of Blessed Mary, Mother of the Church, and St. Joseph, Protector of the Redeemer, may our catechumens and candidates come to know more deeply the Lord Jesus and accompany us in following the Good Shepherd.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento