

Reflecting on the Rites

Questions for Discussion

Below are some suggestions for catechesis that may be of help in reflecting upon the rites that the Elect and Candidates have experienced at the Cathedral. It may help them to relate these rituals to their journey of conversion and initiation. For the reflection, it is sometimes helpful if the participant has the opportunity to journal before discussion begins. After reflection, there could be small group discussion before gathering to share as a large group. This sometimes brings about better participation.

REFLECTION

A. Reviewing the actual rite

This can be done by playing the music that was used at the rites; rereading the Scripture and certain prayers used at the Rite; (aids for these are the ritual text, the Lectionary, and the participation aid received at the liturgy).

B. After reflecting upon the rite, these questions can be posed, reflected upon and discussed in small groups.

1. What part of the rite affected you the most and why?
2. How did you feel at the beginning? At the end?
3. What does it mean to be "chosen"?

Keep in mind there are no wrong answers. We are simply trying to help everyone involved, including the team, to reflect on what God is doing "in" and "through" our lives.

CATECHESIS

A. Because these Catechumens, now called Elect, and Candidates were sent for *Election* and *Call to Continuing Conversion*, their initial catechesis is complete. Lent is a *time of retreat* for the Candidates and Elect. It is a time of prayer, deeper conversion, and greater intimacy with God. Further catechesis on the sacraments of initiation should wait for the *Period of Mystagoga* after they have experienced the *sacraments*.

B. Catechists, please review the pastoral notes in the [RCIA 106-110, 118-128, 434-437, 446-449, 530-535 and 547-549]. Some of this material may be helpful.

C. Questions that may be used during catechesis may include:

1. Why does the Bishop preside? Who is he for us? What is his role as shepherd?
2. Why does the Local Church participate?
3. What is the impact of so many Elect (or Candidates) who are being initiated into the Catholic Church? What does that mean for our Church...what does that mean for our parish, our personal faith?
4. What does this Lent hold for us? How can we best prepare for our initiation?
5. How is our church supporting us throughout these 40 days?