THE RITE OF SENDING

Because election does belong to the bishop, the parish may celebrate a rite of sending to the election at the cathedral. The structure of the rite of sending will depend on how the rite of election is celebrated at the cathedral.

Day of Celebration: Since the rite of election is normally celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, the rite of sending will need to be celebrated at a time prior to the cathedral celebration. A recommended time would be the day of election, at an earlier Mass in the parish community. Following the rite, the catechumens could then leave to travel to the cathedral. Circumstances of time and travel will, however, dictate to some degree the appropriate time of the rite of sending. The Sunday before the rite of election seems to be the earliest time it could be celebrated.

Time of Celebration: The rite of sending follows the homily at the community's worship (or at a liturgy of the word celebration).

Presentation of Catechumens: The RCIA coordinator speaks to the community concerning the readiness of the catechumens to celebrate the Easter sacraments. Having been part of the discernment process, the coordinator may choose to highlight some of the dimensions of conversion experienced by the catechumens while maintaining confidentiality.

The catechumens can then be called before the accompanied by their godparent or sponsor.

Affirmation by the Godparents and Assembly: The presider now requests some testimony from those responsible for the formation of the catechumens. The presider may also witness at this time if the presider had been part of the discernment process.

The godparents (and sponsors) are the first to be invited to give witness regarding the readiness of the catechumens. They can complete their witness by recommending to the community that the catechumens be welcomed to the Easter sacraments.

Catechists are also encouraged to offer witness and testimony. Hopefully, the catechumens have had a rich experience of the community. Therefore, the presider may invite anyone from the community to come forward to give testimony.