There are several new norms in the 2024 Statutes; each will require careful implementation by pastoral ministers….

**From new National Statutes for Christian Initiation** (promulgated April 2024; effective 12-1-2024)

REGISTRATION OF INITIATION-RELATED ACTS

**Norm 14** §1. The register of those who have entered the catechumenate is to be kept in the parish archive.

§2. In addition to those things required by OCIA 46, the pastor is to see that the date and place of birth of the catechumens are inscribed in the register.

**From Fr. Mike Hall**: *This means that all those who are unbaptized and go through the Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate ( Former Rite of Acceptance) and become Catechumens must be registered in this book. The books for all three of these Statutes are to be kept safe in the parish archive (Safe or Fireproof File Cabinet).*

*I will be offering a Template for the pages of this book, that can be kept in a binder (like many do for Corporate Resolutions) which would negate needing purchase the new book. This would be helpful in places with very few Catechumens. If you regularly have many Catechumen, purchasing the book is probably the better option*

**Norm 15** The Book of the Elect, in which the catechumens enroll their names in anticipation of the Sacraments of Initiation (OCIA 119), is to be kept in the archives of the parish or of the diocese, unless diocesan law directs otherwise.

**From Fr. Mike Hall:**  *This is the book that is already signed in your parish and presented at the Co-Cathedral during the Rite of Election. It is just a reminder that this is an important book and must be kept. It should not just sit on a shelf until you need it where it could be damaged or lost*

**Norm 16** §1. The register of those received into the full communion of the Catholic Church is to be kept in the parish archive.

§2. In addition to those things required by OCIA 486, the pastor is to see that the date and place of birth of the candidate are inscribed in the register, with mention made of the minister, parents, sponsors, and the date and place of Reception into full communion.

§3. If married, a notation of the spouse, date and place of marriage should be noted in the register. Any future marriage is also to be noted in the register.

**From Fr. Mike Hall:**  *This means that all BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLICS. Meaning all of those who require a profession of faith as part of their Initiation into the Roman Catholic Church must now have that recorded in this new book (those who come through OCIA and those who come through Religious Ed or a Catholic School also). In the past, these were recorded in the parish Baptismal Register. That is no longer the case. This new book will be the official Church Record for all those coming into the Roman Church from another Christian tradition. This book will become extraordinarily important in the future for all additional records for these individuals and the place parishes will go when needing information for Sacramental Certificates and Sponsor letters.*

In the current editions of the Registers of Catechumens and Reception, there is not a column for the date and place of birth, so that record should be made in the remarks section. In the Register of Reception, there is also not a column for the place of reception, which should also be noted in the remarks section.

Please see below where these books can be purchased. Please begin using them beginning with your Initiations from now on.

