

## **DIRECTIVE ESTABLISHING A DIOCESAN RITE OF ELECTION**

June 23, 2010

To all clergy, pastoral teams and other employees of the Diocese of London,

With the encouragement of the Council of Priests, I am pleased to announce that the Diocese of London will begin celebrating the Rite of Election as a diocesan liturgy beginning in 2011. [...]

The Rite of Election closes the lengthy period of the catechumens' formation and acclaims their readiness to move forward to the Sacraments of Initiation. The Church makes its choice and elects the catechumens, an "election" founded on God's invitation, witnessed through the testimony of their sponsors, godparents and catechists.

The catechumens are being "elected" to proceed through the waters of Baptism, to be anointed with Chrism, and to partake in the Eucharist. This makes them one with all of us in the Church universal. As the local shepherd, the bishop makes visible the universal Church. For this reason, it is appropriate for the bishop to preside at this liturgy.

The Rite of Election is for the catechumens only. Persons who are baptized and seeking full Communion with the Catholic Church will celebrate the Rite of Calling Candidates to Lenten Renewal in their parish on the First Sunday of Lent or another day near the beginning of Lent, but not Ash Wednesday. Celebrating the Lenten Rite in separate venues will help us appreciate the gift of Baptism already gracing the candidates for full communion.

We will follow the Canadian ritual book and will not be using the "Rite of Sending," a rite created in the United States that is celebrated in the parish prior to the gathering with the bishop.

In order to prepare well for the Rite of Election, we will no longer schedule a Diocesan Mass of Welcome. This will give parishes the opportunity to have a fitting celebration with all the newly received during the Easter Season, thus deepening the period of Mystagogy and engaging the whole parish community.

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The restoration of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an important component of the process of evangelization and conversion. In the Diocese of London, we continue to implement various aspects of this process through ongoing formation and workshops for catechumenal directors and teams, through our liturgical celebrations, and through exploration of the Church's vision of initiating people into the Eucharistic community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London

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