



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

EPISODE 3: STEP OF THE RITE OF ELECTION

Opening Prayer

O God, who though you are ever the cause
of the salvation of the human race
now gladden your people with grace in still greater measure,
look mercifully, we pray, upon your chosen ones,
that your compassionate and protecting help
may defend both those yet to be born anew
and those already reborn.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

From the Ritual

119. At the beginning of Lent, which is the proximate preparation for Sacramental Initiation, is held the "Election" or "Enrollment of Names," at which, having heard the testimony of godparents and catechists, with the catechumens confirming their intention, the Church discerns their state of preparation and decides whether they may proceed to the Paschal Sacraments. In this step the Church makes her "Election," or the choice and admission of catechumens, who by their dispositions are fit to take part in the next celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. It is called "Election" because the admission made by the Church is founded on election by God, in whose name the Church acts; it is also called "Enrollment of Names" because the catechumens write their names in the Book of the Elect as a pledge of their faithfulness.

Scripture

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Beloved:

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings
but chosen and precious in the sight of God,
and, like living stones,
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house
to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture:

Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion,
a cornerstone, chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,
and a stone that will make people stumble,

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 2:4-10 (continued)

and a rock that will make them fall.

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood,

a holy nation, a people of his own,

so that you may announce the praises" of him

who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Once you were "no people"

but now you are God's people;

you "had not received mercy"

but now you have received mercy.

Sacred Art



Artwork: *The Children of Israel Crossing the Red Sea*, Frederic Schopin.

Scripture Reference: Exodus 14

Reflection Questions

- By reflecting upon the Elect, we can see the initiative and election of God at work. What other active roles does God play in calling people into his Church that exemplifies that it is God's invitation, and not our own determination, that enfold us into his flock?
- When reflecting upon our lives in the sheepfold of God and being grafted onto the True Vine, how do we see God fulfilling his covenant with us in our lives?
- In what ways can each member of the Church, from priest to parishioner, take an active part in ensuring that a catechumen is prepared to say yes to Jesus? How can each member of the Church assist the catechumen in undergoing real conversion that leads to an authentic desire for God?

Citations

- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (Totowa, New Jersey: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2024), no. 119.
- Schopin, Frederic. *The Children of Israel Crossing the Red Sea*. 1855. Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol, England. Public domain.
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