



DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

Office of Liturgy and Worship

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests, All Deacons, All PCLs, All RCIA Coordinators, All Parishes
Cc: Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD
From: Luis Espinoza, Director 
Re: **Register of Catechumens** and **Dismissal of Catechumens**
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017; *Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, bishops*

Register of Catechumens

“After the celebration of the rite of acceptance, the names of the catechumens are to be duly inscribed in the register of catechumens, along with the names of the sponsors and the minister and the date and place of the celebration.”

– *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 46

It is important that a record be made of the celebration of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens for the following reasons:

1. Should a catechumen die during the catechumenate, they are to receive a Christian burial omitting “language referring directly to the sacraments” (*cf. National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, nos. 8-9)
2. Should a catechumen go from parish to parish, or even diocese to diocese, the register of catechumens would provide the necessary information to help with the continuation of the process at the next parish in order for them to complete their initiation.
3. When a person seeks to marry a Catholic in the Church, the register of catechumens would verify whether they have gone through this important step and then make the appropriate adaptations found in **Chapter III** in the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*.

Dismissal of Catechumens

“The catechumens are normally dismissed [after the homily] by use of option A or B”.

– *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 67

Theoretically catechumens are to be dismissed at the Mass in which they participate. For practical reasons, a single dominical Mass can be designated so that all the catechumens can be dismissed from the same celebration and then take part in the **dismissal catechesis** that is distinct and apart from the **extended catechesis**.

The **Office of Liturgy and Worship** is happy to be of assistance to parishes and to answer any questions related to the Sacred Liturgy.
