



DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

Catholic Pastoral Center

Office of Catechesis

MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors, Priests, Deacons, PCLs, RCIA Coordinators and Parishes
Cc: Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD
From: Luis Espinoza
Re: Reception of Baptized Christians (Non-Catholics)
Date: January 22, 2015

As we are planning and preparing for the celebration of numerous rites within the context of RCIA, please know that my office is praying for you and your parish RCIA team.

More recently we have received calls regarding those who are Baptized Non-Catholic and are seeking Reception of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Let me first make a few distinctions and then refer you to the appropriate rite.

First, those who are Baptized Non-Catholic should and ought to be called candidates since they are baptized. Please do not refer to them as converts.

Next, the candidates are to be properly prepared doctrinally and spiritually so that they are to receive the Sacrament of Penance before they make their Profession of Faith and are Received into the Church.

The proper liturgical rite that ought to be used for these candidates is the **Reception of Baptized Christian into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church**. During this rite, they will make their Profession of Faith, receive Confirmation, and then receive Eucharist for the first time under both kinds. A priest who admits a baptized adult into full communion with the Catholic Church does not need to request faculties (*cf.* Can. 883 § 2)

This rite is to take place at any Sunday Eucharist (*cf. National Statutes* n. 32). We **strongly discourage** you to celebrate this rite at the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil should be reserved for catechumens only (*cf. National Statutes* n. 33).

Lastly, the names of those received into full communion of the Catholic Church should be recorded into the Baptismal Register with the date of the Reception as the Date of Baptism. Then a note should be recorded in the Remarks that states that the candidate was **Received into Full Communion** with the Date and Place of Baptism.

If you have any questions, please contact us at **956-784-5013** or email at lespinoza@cdob.org.