



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

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The RCIA Process Rite of Sending

This Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election go hand in hand within the RCIA process. The Rite of Sending is usually celebrated in the parish the weekend before the catechumens and candidates actually go to the Rite of Election. This gives those involved time to reflect on the rite and its meaning to them.

Each rite celebrated during the RCIA process marks your progress toward full initiation building on that which has gone before.

Just as the catechumens and candidates stood before the parish community during the Rite of Acceptance, they will do so again. This time their sponsors testify that they have experienced true conversion of faith and are committed to the Catholic community. The community then gives its assent.

What does it mean to be "sent"?

Each week during the Catechumenate period the catechumens and candidates are dismissed from the general assembly to reflect further on God's Word. As disciples of Christ during a period of intense formation, they are **sent** to receive Christ through His Word and to share His message of Good News with others. At the end of Mass, God's people are dismissed to go out into the world to love and serve the Lord. The catechumens and candidates are **sent** forth to do the same by putting what they have learned into practice.

At the Rite of Sending the parish community sends the catechumens and candidates to meet with the Bishop who will then receive them in the Rite of Election. Accompanied and supported by their sponsors, RCIA team, and other community members, they testify to their readiness to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Another integral part of this ceremony is the signing of the book of the elect. By signing this book they seal their covenant with God. Just as they were signed with His cross in the Rite of Acceptance, they now sign a promise to know, love and follow Him throughout their lives. As the bishop signs this same book in the Rite of Election, he receives them into our family of Christ. The catechumens and candidates are now called the "elect" because they have been elected to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil mass.

Welcome to the family!