

Discernment for the Rite of Election

The Rite of Election (Parish Rite of Sending) ordinarily happens on the First Sunday of Lent. Prior to its celebration, the rite calls for a discernment of the catechumen. (See *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* 199–121.) Based on the witness of the godparents, sponsors, and catechists, the Church evaluates the catechumen's readiness to advance to the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the following Easter Vigil.

The godparents, sponsors, and catechists observe the external behaviors of the catechumen that indicate enlightened faith and deliberate will and the desire to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

For discernment at this stage, it is helpful to give the catechumen some questions to reflect on prior to meeting with their sponsor/godparent and a member of the RCIA team who has been a catechist in the catechumenate period. The following questions might be used as a guide:

- In what way have you grown in your relationship with Jesus/God?
- What is the role of a disciple? What will it cost you to be faithful disciple of Jesus?
- What does it mean for you to live the Catholic way of life?
- Describe some attitudes and qualities that you consider essential for a Catholic to possess? Why?
- What insights have you gained about the sacramental life of the Catholic Church?
- Becoming Catholic is a commitment. In what way do you experience God calling you to this way of life?
- In the biblical account about Jesus' baptism, the clouds opened and a voice was heard proclaiming, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). In what way do you experience God saying this to you?
- Are you ready to celebrate publicly your desire to explore the Catholic way of life?
- What questions or concerns do you have at this time?

Set a time for the catechumen, sponsor or godparent, and at least one RCIA catechist to meet and discuss the inquirer's reflections based on some of the above questions. The sponsor or godparent and the catechist should also share examples of growth they have observed in the catechumen.