



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEARLY 600 PREPARE FOR RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Lent marks the final days of preparation for 569 individuals from parishes throughout the Diocese of Grand Rapids who intend to join the Catholic Church this year through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

The RCIA process involves four stages: inquiry, catechumenate (acceptance), the Lenten period (enlightenment) and, after the Easter Vigil celebration, this year on April 3, mystagogy, the time in which new Catholics continue their journey of faith and actively participate in parish ministry. On the first Sunday of Lent, RCIA participants begin the Lenten period or third stage with Rite of Election.

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley, bishop of Grand Rapids, will celebrate Rite of Election at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, 265 Sheldon S.E. in Grand Rapids on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21 at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 28 at 3:00 p.m.

The Rite of Election culminates at the Easter Vigil when the elect (formerly catechumens) are fully received into the church through the Sacraments of Initiation (baptism, confirmation, and holy Eucharist). The elect who have already been baptized (candidates) will receive confirmation and holy Eucharist. Full initiation of the elect will be celebrated in their respective parishes.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves 178,000 Catholics in 103 parishes and missions throughout an 11-county area.

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