



Diocese of Winona-Rochester  
The Chancery | 2907 Jeremiah Lane NW | Rochester, MN 5590

# *Office of the Bishop*

Most Reverend Robert Barron

January 15, 2025

Dear Pastors, Parochial Administrators, and OCIA Coordinators,

*Greetings of peace in the Lord Jesus Christ!*

The diocesan **Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion** will be celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, **March 9, 2025, at 3:00 pm, at Queen of Angels Church in Austin**. At this liturgical rite, I will gather in prayer with the catechumens and candidates of our diocese, accompanied by their godparents and sponsors, to acknowledge that God has called them to initiation into, and full communion with, the Catholic Church.

This celebration is a significant moment on the pilgrimage of faith for our catechumens and candidates. It also offers an occasion for all of us, as believers, to join them in seeking authentic conversion and renewal in our shared call to holiness. And, so, **I also invite and encourage you and other parish leaders to join the catechumens and candidates for this wonderful celebration**, if you are able.

A special invitation to this liturgy is also to be extended to all those who will have entered the Church through the OCIA since last Easter, along with their sponsors. This will be a special opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for the witness of our newest Catholics in the diocese, and to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

In closing, I am most grateful to Very Rev. Raúl Silva, Pastor, to Mary Bassett, Pastoral Associate, and to the Queen of Angels Parish community for their willingness to host our celebration again this coming Lent. Invoking God's blessing on you and yours, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert Barron  
Bishop of Winona-Rochester