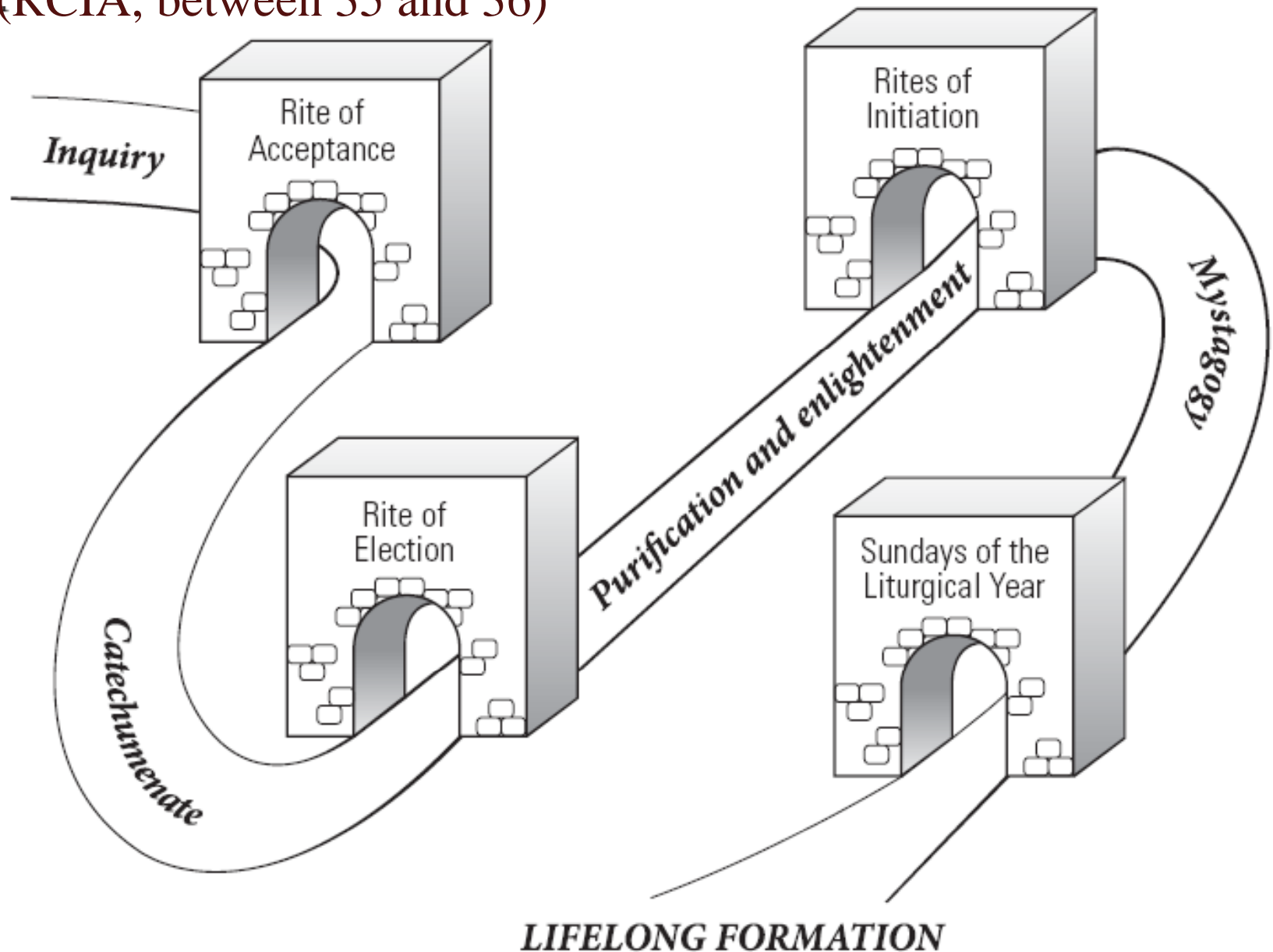


God patiently waited  
until the time was right




# The Journey of Faith and Conversion

(RCIA, between 35 and 36)



# Rite of Election *or* Enrollment of Names



RCIA 19, 118-137



## Rite of Election

- Not optional; at Cathedral with Bishop
- Presentation of the Catechumens
- Affirmation by the Godparents [and the Assembly]
- Invitation and Enrollment of Names
- Act of Admission or Election
- Intercessions for Elect
- Prayer over the Elect
- Dismissal of the Elect

## Rite of Sending (106-117)

- Optional; at parish with pastor
- Presentation of the Catechumens
- Affirmation by the Godparents [and the Assembly]
- 
- 
- Intercessions for catechumens
- Prayer over catechumens
- Dismissal of catechumens



# Who's who in the RCIA

- Who is the Rite of Election for? Clues:
  - Where is the rite located in the book?
  - Who are “the Elect,” the chosen ones?
    - In the rite (RCIA 119a, 119b)
    - What about the baptized candidates?
- Who elects? (RCIA 119a, 119b)
  - Call and response



# What must happen before rite?

Would doing the rite now reflect the reality? (RCIA 120-123)

## Rite of Election

Conversion in mind and action

Sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching

Spirit of faith and charity

Intention to receive sacraments and **publicly say this**

Entire community, according to role, arrives at judgment

**Deliberation by Bishop on suitability of catechumens**

Godparents are chosen by catechumens



# What does the rite ritualize?

What does it *do*? (How does it do this?)

- Closes the period of catechumenate, and
- Begins the final, more intense period of preparation (RCIA 118)
- Church responds to God's action in the world and acts in name of God (RCIA 119)
- Catechumens re-state intention and pledge fidelity (RCIA 119)

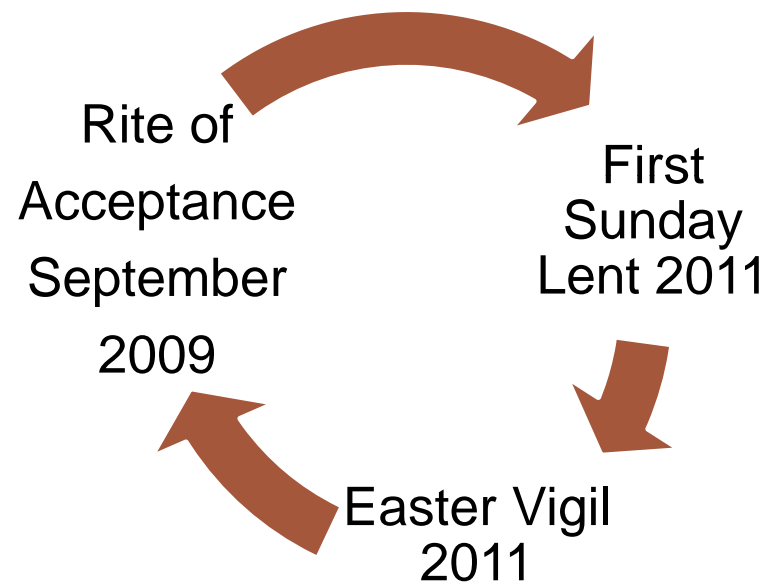


# What must happen after rite?

- Elect “will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity” (RCIA 118)
- No turning back (RCIA 119a)
- Entire community surrounds elect with prayer and accompanies and leads them to encounter Christ (RCIA 121b)
  - Godparents exercise their ministry publicly for the first time (RCIA 123)
- Faithful give good example and, with elect, prepare themselves for Easter (RCIA 125)

# When does rite happen? (RCIA 126, NS 6)

- First Sunday of Lent
  - Because of Lent's liturgical structure and participation of community in Lenten season
- Outside of Lent, we create a Lent-like season
  - Because it takes time





# Where does rite happen? (RCIA 127)

## ■ The role of Bishop and Cathedral

(Rita Ferrone)

- The Rite of Election is a big deal not because of the Bishop's presence or the location of the rite...
- Rather, because the Rite of Election *is* a big deal, it requires the Bishop and the Cathedral

# What are the primary symbols of the Rite of Election?



- Testimony
- Enrollment of Names
- Act of Election
- Godparents / Assembly

# Testimony (RCIA 131)



*“Elected’ means you’re in. Somebody voted for me to be IN.” When I asked who did that, he replied, “Jesus, God, and my Mom and Dad because they thought I was becoming a pretty good Christian. There were some people standing behind me who said, ‘Yes’ to that kind of stuff.”*

**(10 year old boy after the Rite of Election)**

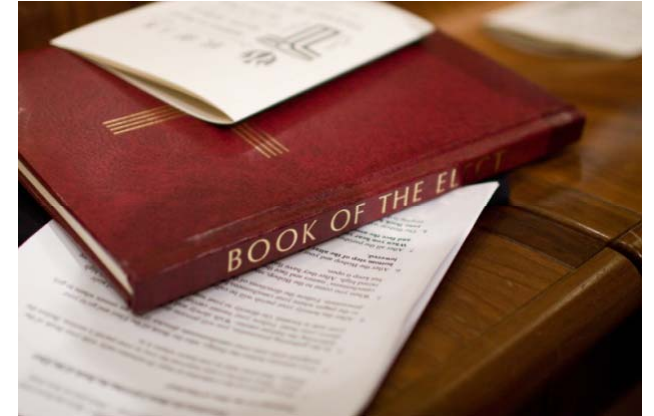
# Testimony: not mere formality

- It's about God's action
  - Language of testimony, not eulogy
- Participation of the faithful
  - of family and friends
  - of sponsors and catechists
  - of baptized candidates



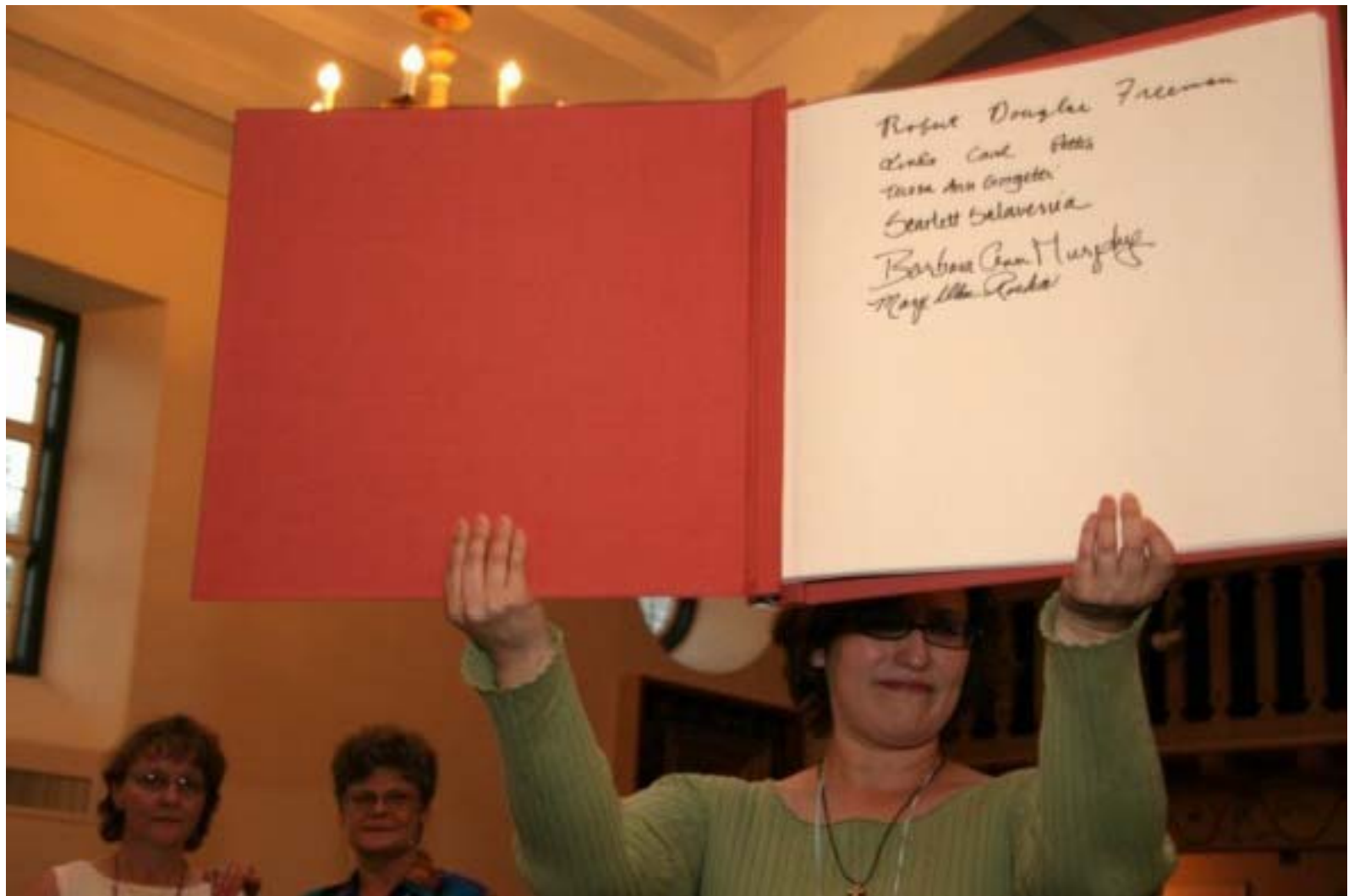
# Enrollment of Names

(RCIA 132)

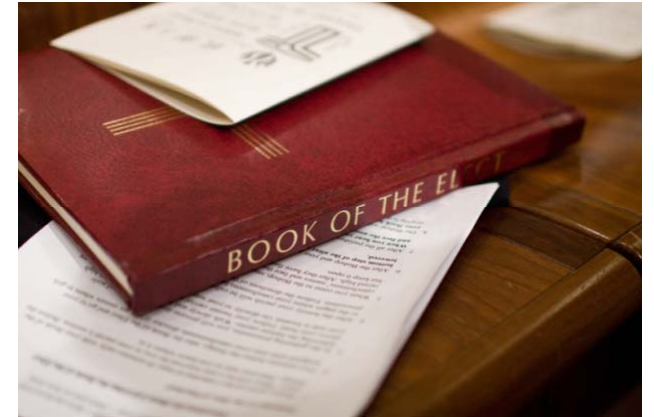


- It's about giving the name, not about the book
  - “The name is the icon of the person”  
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2158)
  - But the book is the symbol of the giving

# Enrollment of Names (RCIA 132)



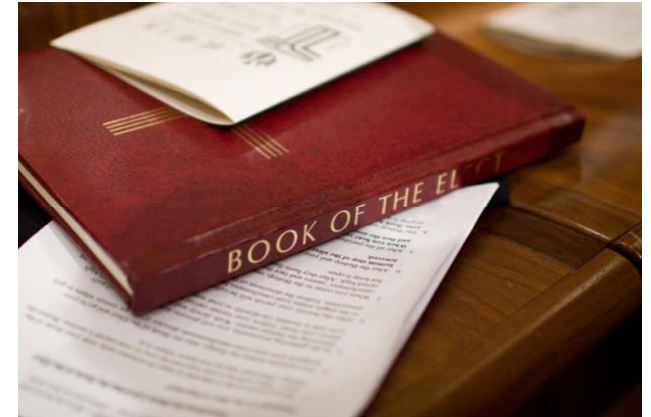
# Enrollment of Names



- Note: presentation of catechumens (RCIA 130 rubrics)
  - They no longer need to be introduced as they were at Rite of Acceptance
  - Now they are called by name because we have come to know them
  - Chanting (elevates solemnity)

# Enrollment of Names

(RCIA 132, rubrics)



- The enrollment may be done three different ways:
  - Candidates may inscribe their own names
  - They may call out their names which are then inscribed for them by the godparent or another minister
  - Or, if there are a great many candidates, a list is presented to the bishop

# Act of Election (RCIA 133)

## ■ Giving of a new name

- “N. and N., I now declare you to be members of the elect...”
- The climax of the rite, the turning point
  - name changes often signal the highpoint of a rite
- heightened by chanting, acclamation, and showing of book, movement, joy(!)



# Handing over to Godparents

(RCIA 133 rubrics)



- Receiving elect into their care
  - Hand on shoulder, or other gesture
  - Movement from (temporary) responsibility of sponsor to (permanent) responsibility of Godparent



## Options and Adaptations

- Unbaptized children: RCIA 277-290
- Baptized Christians: RCIA 446-458
  - Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion (optional)
    - Note: This rite is intended for parishes with no catechumens (RCIA 447)
- Unbaptized & baptized: RCIA 547-561



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