



Vox Populi

22 February 2024

How was your first week of Lent? Prayerful and reflective? Our Church provides Lent almost like an annual retreat, a time of deepening the understanding of our Christian faith, a time for reflection and renewal, a time to make a fresh start. It offers us the opportunity to journey towards the joyous solemnity of Easter and while we reflect on our lives we can harness the call to participate in the Mission of Christ to which we are all called.

In the early centuries of the Church, Lent was seen as a time of beginning. It was – and is now – a time for forming new converts, preparing them for their formal entry into the Church community.

Last Sunday 130 Catechumens in the RCIA program from parishes in our Diocese gathered with Bishop Anthony at the Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral for the annual Rite of Election which takes place on the First Sunday of Lent. This is a step in their journey to receive the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation – at Easter.

Accompanied by their RCIA co-ordinators, Parish Clergy, sponsors, fellow parishioners, family and friends, the Catechumens were presented to the Bishop as a sign of “election” into the Catholic Church.

The Catechumens indicate their desire to join the Church by signing the Book of the Elect.

It was a beautiful grace-filled celebration as they journey towards the Easter liturgies. Lets us keep them all in our Lenten prayers.