



Dear Catechumens and Candidates,

Last year at this time, thousands of individuals from across the Archdiocese came together as a community of faith to celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. This year, the pervasive nature of the coronavirus necessitates that we gather in limited fashion. However, the limitations on safely gathering do not diminish the great joy that I feel in welcoming you – whether you are present in the Basilica or joining via livestream – as we celebrate your call to receive the sacraments of Initiation this Easter!

Though the faith journey of each person is unique, we celebrate our unity in the Gospel, which is the source of our hope and joy. For those of you preparing for Baptism, I invite you to consider that, regardless of the parish in which you will receive the sacrament; baptism places each person within our universal family of faith. For those of you completing your journey of faith through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, I am grateful to the Father for your response to His call to enter into greater communion with Christ and His Church.

With each of you, I recall my own journey to the Catholic faith and I pray that over time, you will also come to understand the personal impact of the sacraments in your life with a much more profound appreciation.

The entire Church of Washington rejoices with you in the public declaration of your intention to receive the sacraments of initiation this Easter. Be assured of our prayers both in these remaining days of preparation and in the years to come when we will celebrate together as brothers and sisters united in Christ.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

✠ Wilton Cardinal Gregory,  
Archbishop of Washington