



THE TITULAR ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF PENANG DIOCESE OF PENANG

Catholic Diocesan Centre

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21 April 2020

PKK/BDN/2020/04/037

My Dear Catechumens in the states of Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Perak and Penang,

Re: Catechumens in the Catholic Church

As Catechumens who have stated your intention to become Christians before the Church, going through a period of spiritual and catechetical formation to prepare yourselves for the Sacrament of Initiation, I wish to share with you some information on Catechumens in the Catholic Church.

Your catechumenate duration begins from the time you accept and openly express your desire to be incorporated into the Church through Baptism until the time you actually receive the Sacrament of Baptism. As catechumens, each one of you have a special place in the Catholic Church even though you are not yet members of the Catholic faithful.

In the Law of the Catholic Church, the two important characters of the catechumens specified in Canon 206 § 1 are:

i) your expressed desire to become a Christian AND ii) your life of faith, hope and charity.

The Church keeps you close at heart and has a special care for you, and so allows you to receive blessings and Sacramentals according to Canon 1170 and be given special rites for funeral and burial under Canon 1183 § 1. I want you to know that if you happen to be very sick in the case of emergency, you may call the Church elders or members of the Clergy, whoever is available, to pray with you and for you, if the circumstances permit.

Dearest Catechumens (Members of the Elect), I send you my Easter Greetings and I invite you to even now, believe in your hearts, that if you so wish, you have already received the "Baptism of Desire". Your Sacramental Baptism, followed by Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist, will take place at an appropriate time when we are no longer under the Movement Control Order (MCO).

I hope this message will give you the assurance that the Church and the People of God, are one with you in Spirit.

Be always assured of my constant prayers and blessings for each one of you.

"Be Disciples of Hope"

Sincerely in Christ,

Sebastian Francis

**Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis
Bishop of Penang**

