



Orientation Sessions for New OCIA Coordinators
Part 1: Understanding the Periods, Rites, and Vision of the OCIA

Session 1
The Six Principles of Initiation Ministry

Sessions 2 and 3
The Steps and Stages of the Catechumenal Process

LTP DIGITAL INSTITUTE

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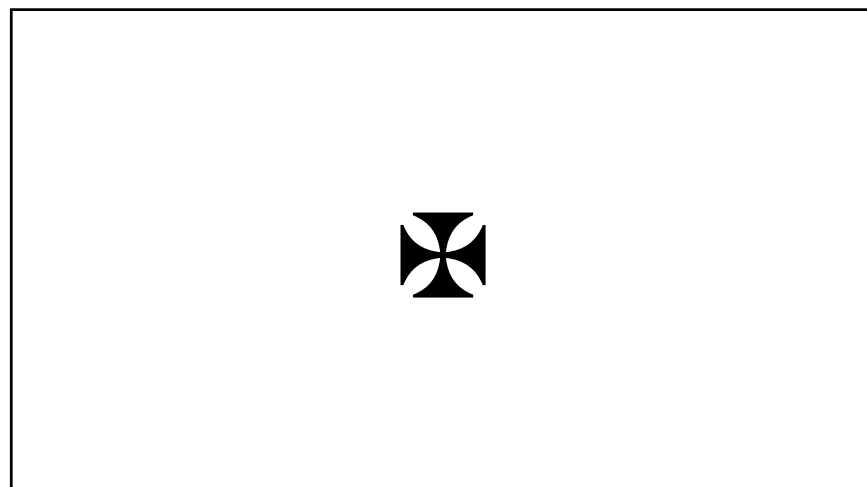


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1.2a

2



3

(1 Corinthians 9:19-22, NET)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: For since I am free from all I can make myself a slave to all, in order to gain even more people.

To the Jews I became like a Jew to gain the Jews.

To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) to gain those under the law.

To those free from the law I became like one free from the law (though I am not free from God's law but under the law of Christ) to gain those free from the law.

To the weak I became weak in order to gain the weak.

I have become all things to all people, so that by all means I may save some.

The word of the Lord.

4

Let us pray:

Loving God, you have called us to do your work:
to walk with our brothers and sisters
who seek the Risen Lord
and want to learn about the Catholic faith.

As we begin our time together,
give us the grace to respond to your call
that we may welcome all who seek you
with open arms and open hearts.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5



Session 1

*The Six Principles of
Initiation Ministry*

Sessions 2 and 3

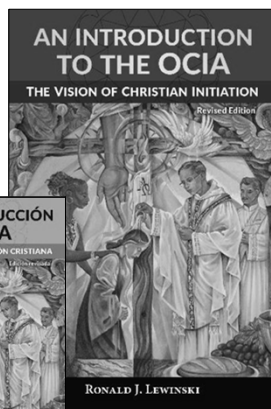
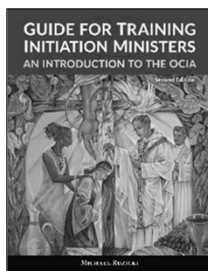
*The Steps and Stages of
the Catechumenal Process*

6

Six Principles of Initiation Ministry

Chapter 1 in *An Introduction to the OCIA*

by Fr. Ron Lewinski



7

Video

The Vision of Christian Initiation Ministry

In the chat...
What strikes you about this video?

1.5a

8

The Irreplaceable Role of the Community



1.3

9

By its witness and its words, the community passes on its values and beliefs.

Not only do our Christian initiation ministry teams do this, but they are also called to animate the entire parish community as they pray, support, and mentor the catechumens and candidates.



10

cognizant “baptismally aware”

involved

supportive, challenging

“it takes a village”



...the **People of God**, represented by the local Church, should always realize and show that **the Initiation of adults is its own concern and a matter for all the baptized.**

It should therefore show itself **always prepared** to fulfill its apostolic vocation by helping those who seek Christ.

In the varying circumstances of everyday life, as in the apostolate, **every disciple of Christ is individually obliged to spread the faith.**

He or she **must** therefore **help** others throughout the course of their Initiation...

OCIA, 9

11

cognizant “baptismally aware”

involved

supportive, challenging

“it takes a village”



An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.

Evangelii Gaudium, 24

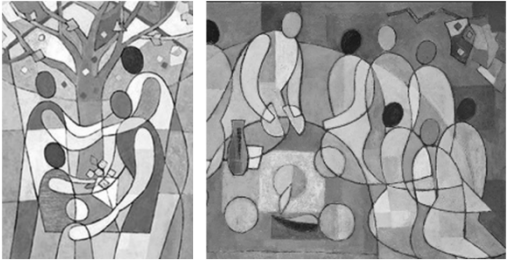
12

**cognizant
“baptismally
aware”**

involved

**supportive,
challenging**

**“it takes a
village”**



...the People of God... must
therefore **help** others throughout
the course of their Initiation...

OCIA, 9

13

**cognizant
“baptismally
aware”**

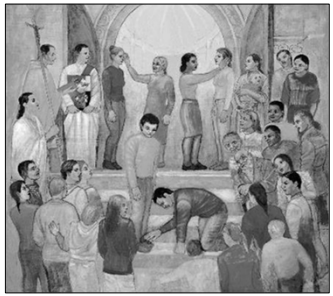
involved

**supportive,
challenging**

**“it takes a
village”**

Christian initiation during the
catechumenate is not the concern of
catechists or priests alone, but of the
whole community of believers and
especially of godparents, so that **from the
outset the
catechumens
will have a
sense of being
part of the
people of God.**

Ad gentes, 14



14

And so what...?

15

**inquiry:
rule of 12**

evangelize
within

adult faith
formation

network of
subcontractors

See OCIA 9.1

Welcome inquirers ...

- into their families,
- into personal conversations,
- into community gatherings



16

**To become evangelizers,
we must first be evangelized.**
Disciples Called to Witness

inquiry:
rule of 12

**evangelize
within**

adult faith
formation

network of
subcontractors



17

inquiry:
rule of 12

**evangelize
within**

adult faith
formation

network of
subcontractors



*If not
inside,
how
outside?*

**Before each meeting, rehearsal,
gathering, class – begin with the
Sunday Gospel.**
Proclaim, discuss, proclaim. 7-10 minutes.

18

inquiry:
rule of 12

evangelize
within

**adult faith
formation**

network of
subcontractors

**Download
Buy
Read
Pray
Discuss**



"I wish I went thru the OCIA"

19

inquiry:
rule of 12

evangelize
within

adult faith
formation

**network of
subcontractors**

Gifts Assessment
 Look at Parishioner or Religious Education
 Registration Form, Make Observations,
 Have Conversations

Journal of Parishioners
 Names, Gifts, Stories

keep...the... stakes... low...




20

Conversion is at the Heart of Initiation

21

Conversion is not just an intellectual act but a change in the way we live our life.

While conversion is a very personal experience, it cannot remain a private affair.

What are the ways in which we observe conversion in the Christian initiation journey? Where does discernment play a role?

22

"Through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation all who have been freed from the power of darkness and have died, been buried and been raised with Christ, receive the Spirit of filial adoption and celebrate with the entire People of God the memorial of the Lord's Death and Resurrection."

OCIA, 1

Conversion/ Metanoia
= dying to self
and rising in Christ

23

**ongoing
discernment**
prerequisites not requirements

The Initiation of catechumens takes place step by step in the midst of **the community of the faithful**, who together with the catechumens reflecting upon the value of the Paschal Mystery and **renewing their own conversion**, lead them by their own example to obey the Holy Spirit more generously.

OCIA, 4

*This presumes a life of ongoing conversion.
This is not a one-time thing.*

24

ongoing

discernment
prerequisites not requirements

transformative

humbling and life-giving

Don't Say: "of course this Easter Vigil"
Say: "of course it'll depend"

Discernment guides the timeline.
Holy Spirit, catechumen, team, clergy

1. beginnings of a spiritual life
2. foundations of Christian doctrine to have been planted in the inquirers
3. initial conversion
4. desire to change their lives
5. desire to enter a relationship with God in Christ
6. beginning of a sense of penitence
7. habit of calling on God and of prayer
8. a sense of the Church
9. a first experience of the company and spirit of Christians (community)
10. preparation for the liturgical Rite of Entrance

See OCIA, 42

25

ongoing

discernment
prerequisites not requirements

transformative

humbling and life-giving

N. and N., you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ.

Receive, therefore, the white garment and bring it unstained before the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you may have eternal life.

OCIA, 229



26

ongoing

discernment
prerequisites not requirements

transformative

humbling and life-giving



The Conversion of Saint Paul (Caravaggio)

27

And so what...?

28

internal conversations

discernment retreat

watching our language

As part of your regular team meetings (and/or meetings with clergy),

discuss the journey of (and pray for) individual catechumens and candidates.



29

Don't Say: "of course this Easter Vigil"
Say: "of course it'll depend"

Discernment guides the timeline.
Holy Spirit, catechumen, team, clergy

internal conversations

discernment retreat

watching our language

...listened to God's word?

...begun to walk in God's presence?

...persevered in the communion of the faithful and in the prayers?

See OCIA 131

30

OBC • OCF • OCM Teams

OCIA Team

Initiation Ministry
Catechumenal Ministry
Becoming Catholic Ministry

conversations internal

discernment retreat

watching our language

COMMUNITY



31

COMMUNITY: Does your community understand their central role in the initiation process?

- If yes, how did this occur?
- If no, what might you do to nurture this vision?

CONVERSION: Why is conversion and discernment crucial? *[What is the initiation process without authentic conversion?]*



32

**The
Transformative
Nature
of Liturgy
and the Rites**

33

**Ritual not only gives form
to our prayer, but it also
shapes our attitudes and
values as well.**

**Ritual has the power to
draw us beyond ourselves
into the mystery of God
who transforms us.**

Baptism at St. Mary of the Angels, Singapore

34

**participation =
full, conscious,
active**

**we celebrate
behind,
send forward**

formative

beautiful

All the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is **demanded by the very nature of the liturgy.**

...the aim to be considered before all else...

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 14

35

**participation =
full, conscious,
active**

**we celebrate
behind,
send forward**

formative

beautiful

**Catechesis both precedes
the Liturgy and springs from it...**

Liturgy itself is inherently catechetical.

National Directory for Catechesis, 33

36

**participation =
full, conscious,
active**

**we celebrate
behind,
send forward**

formative

beautiful



Burning of Palms, St. Thomas the Apostle, © 2021, Timothy A. Johnson

**The liturgy is... the privileged
place for catechizing
the People of God.**

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1074

37

**participation =
full, conscious,
active**

**we celebrate
behind,
send forward**

formative

beautiful



Faith grows when it is well expressed
in celebration.

Good celebrations foster and nourish faith.

Poor celebrations may weaken and destroy it.

Music in Catholic Worship, #6

38

And so what...?

39

reflect back

dismissal
catechesis
or
Celebrations
of the Word

LEADS TO
**MISSIONARY
DISCIPLESHIP**



**Catechesis both
precedes the Liturgy
and springs from it...**

**Liturgy itself is
inherently catechetical.**

National Directory for Catechesis, 33

Distribute Liturgy Journals

What did you experience? What struck you?
What does it say about God?
How does it inform how you are to live?

40

reflect back

**dismissal
catechesis**
or
Celebrations
of the Word



starting with the Rite of Entrance
team, lectors, deacon wives
resources make it easy
try it with your team!

41

reflect back

dismissal
catechesis
or
**Celebrations
of the Word**

**Song, Readings,
Psalms, Reflection,
Minor Exorcism,
Blessing, Anointing**

See OCIA 85-89

catechumenal formation is
dependent on God's Word

start or end sessions

combined with
catechetical experiences

42

**Catechesis that
Fosters an
Intimate
Relationship
with Christ**



43

**To understand the depth and
wisdom of the Church's
teaching, one also has to
relate that teaching of the
Church to contemporary life
and events.**

**In this session, we will
consider the many varied
ways in which catechesis
brings us into communion
with Jesus Christ.**



44

Christ at center

**intimate,
personal**

**Scripture,
Tradition
Dogmas,
Teachings**

**accommodated
to the
liturgical year**



The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ.

Catechesi Tradendae, 5

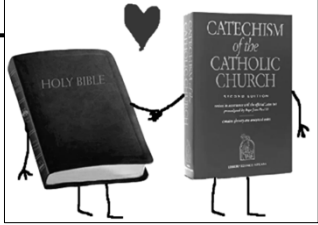
45

Christ at center

**intimate,
personal**

**Scripture,
Tradition
Dogmas,
Teachings**

**accommodated
to the
liturgical year**



Appropriate catechesis... suited to the liturgical year and supported by Celebrations of **the Word**, leads them not only to a suitable knowledge of **dogmas and precepts**, but also to an intimate knowledge of the mystery of salvation, which they desire to make their own.

OCIA, 75.1

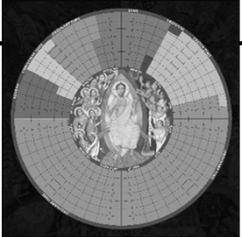
46

Christ at center

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Appropriate catechesis... suited to the **liturgical year** and supported by Celebrations of the Word, leads them not only to a suitable knowledge of dogmas and precepts, but also to an intimate knowledge of the **mystery of salvation**, which they desire to make their own.

OCIA, 75.1

47

And so what...?

48

**into communion
and intimacy
with Christ**

catechesis
as echoing

catechetical
experiences

Directory for Catechesis, 79

TASKS OF CATECHESIS

Catechesis pursues several interconnected tasks that are **inspired by the way in which Jesus formed his disciples**:

- he got them to **know** the mysteries of the Kingdom,
- taught them to **pray**,
- proposed to them **gospel values**,
- initiated them into **the life of communion** with him and among themselves,
- and into **mission**.



49

**into communion
and intimacy
with Christ**

catechesis
as echoing

catechetical
experiences

Directory for Catechesis, 79



This pedagogy of Jesus then molded the life of the Christian community:

“they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

50

**into communion
and intimacy
with Christ**

catechesis
as echoing

catechetical
experiences



Catechesis
Accommodated to
the Liturgical Year

Dismissal
Catechesis

Doctrinal
Catechesis

VS.



51

**into communion
and intimacy
with Christ**

catechesis
as echoing

catechetical
experiences

...people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer, and study...

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, 5.



“...routine leads to stagnation, lethargy and eventual paralysis...”

St. John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae*, 17

52



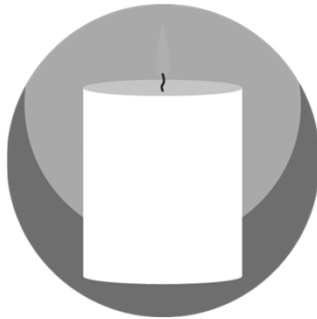


LITURGY: Consider the OCIA liturgies in your parish. Are they formative? Are they prepared with the community in mind? What, if anything, would you change about the way you celebrate them?

CATECHESIS: In your experience, what are effective methods of catechizing adults in the initiation process? How does this foster an intimate and personal relationship with Christ?

53

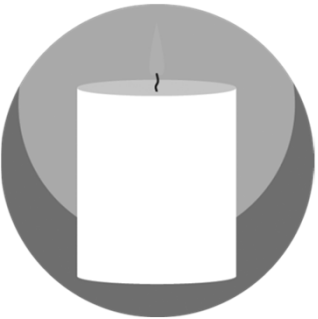
Sacramental Living and Missionary Discipleship



54

**While the celebration of
Baptism, Confirmation, and
Eucharist is a climactic point in
becoming a Catholic Christian,
it is not the end of the journey.**

**The process of Christian
initiation ultimately leads to
mission.**



55



56



57

**walking as
Children of
the Light**

**Lord, Send
Out
Your Spirit**
*and renew the world
with your fruits*

Ubi Caritas
Eucharistic Living

**Share your bread with the hungry,
shelter the oppressed and the homeless;
clothe the naked when you see them,
and do not turn your back on your own.**

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

If you remove from your midst oppression,
false accusation and malicious speech;
**if you bestow your bread on the hungry
and satisfy the afflicted;**

then light shall rise for you in the darkness,
and the gloom shall become for you like midday.



Isaiah 58:7-10

58



59

**walking as
Children of
the Light**

**Lord, Send
Out
Your Spirit**
*and renew the world
with your fruits*

Ubi Caritas
Eucharistic Living

**Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Generosity
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-Control**



See Galatians 5:22-23

60

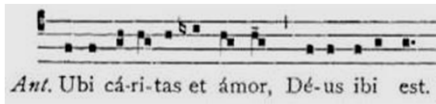
**walking as
Children of
the Light**

**Lord, Send
Out
Your Spirit**
*and renew the world
with your fruits*

Ubi Caritas
Eucharistic Living

**Each of us is truly called,
together with Jesus, to be
bread broken for the life of
the world.**

The eucharistic mystery thus
gives rise to a **service of
charity towards neighbor...**



Ant. Ubi cá-ri-tas et ámor, Dé-us ibi est.




Sacramentum Caritatis, 88

61

And so what...?

62

**priest
prophet
king**

no more
volunteers

you've got
a story
to tell

dedicate a year (or three months)
to helping the community
understand their **baptismal identity**



Celebration of the Word +
Community Supper and Service Night

ALL FOUR ASPECTS OF OCIA, 75

63

**priest
prophet
king**

no more
volunteers

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dedicate a year (or three months)
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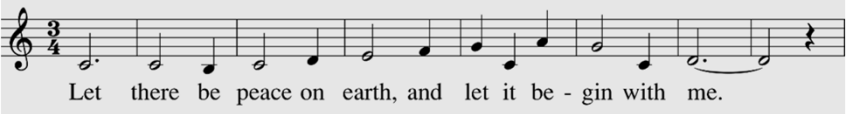


**"This is what we do as
baptized Catholic Christians."**

64

PPK Corner in the Bulletin	
PPK Monthly Videos	
Meetings, Rehearsals, Gatherings	
<i>answering...</i>	
priest prophet king	
no more volunteers	
you've got a story to tell	How do you offer your life as a sacrifice of praise ? How does your voice stand up for the oppressed, promote peace? How are you a servant leader at home, in the community?

65

Let There Be Peace on Earth	
	
	<i>A place for YOU to share your story. To learn, grow, teach with others.</i>
LTP Facebook Group	
<i>OCIA Coordinators and Catechists</i>	

66

The Catechumenal Process, Parish Life, and Adaptability	
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67

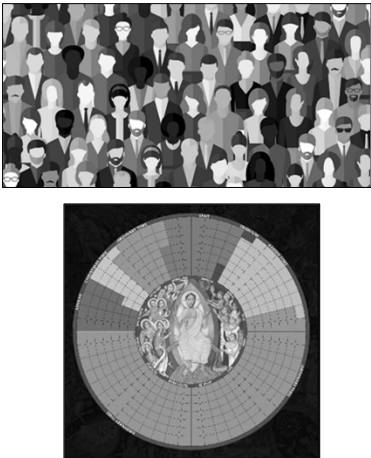
Many of us in Christian initiation ministry are comfortable with a structured and well-ordered process. However, pastoral adaptability presumes a flexibility that sometimes may look or feel messy. For the benefit of each individual, we consider the ways in which we must accommodate the many needs of our catechumens, candidates, and parishioners.	
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68

**everyone / year
is different**

**schedules, needs,
desires,
situations,
learning methods**

**according to
God's grace, time,
place,
and full
cooperation**

A composite image featuring a top half with a dense crowd of stylized, diverse human figures in various shades of gray. The bottom half shows a circular diagram, possibly a liturgical calendar or a spiritual journey map, with a central figure of a person in a circle, surrounded by concentric rings and segments.

69

**everyone / year
is different**

**schedules, needs,
desires,
situations,
learning methods**

**according to
God's grace, time,
place,
and full
cooperation**

The Order of Initiation is suited to the spiritual journey of adults, which **varies according to the many forms of God's grace, the free cooperation of individuals, the action of the Church, and the circumstances of time and place.**

OCIA, 5

An artistic illustration showing a group of people in a dynamic, possibly liturgical or spiritual setting. Some figures are standing, some are kneeling or in prayerful poses, and there are large, stylized letters or symbols in the background, creating a sense of movement and spiritual activity.

70

And so what...?

71

REPEAT AFTER ME

**year-round
inquiry**

baptized
candidates

floating
"class nights"

learning
styles

**I will stop saying
"come back
in September...!"**

72

year-round inquiry



YEAR-ROUND

*Bulletin, Announcements,
Webpage, Social Media*

Initial Contact
Initial Meeting
Monthly Dinners
Monthly Gatherings
Periodic Check-In's
just meet people...!

73

year-round inquiry

baptized candidates

floating “class nights”

learning styles

**...no further burden
is imposed than
what is necessary...**

See OCIA 473

Catechized or
Uncatechized?

Celebrate the
Rite of Reception

74

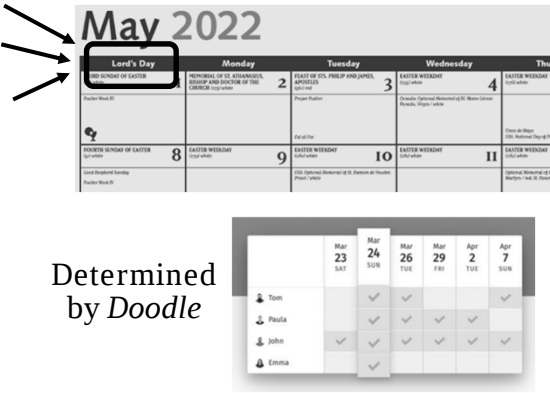
year-round inquiry

baptized candidates

floating “class nights”

learning styles

Dies Domini Primacy of SUNDAY!



Determined
by *Doodle*

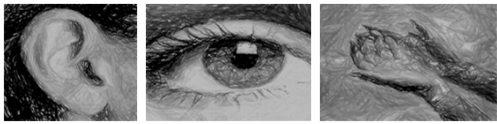
75

year-round inquiry

baptized candidates

floating “class nights”

learning styles



AUDITORY VISUAL KINESTHETIC

Presentation • Discussion
Art • Music • Videos
Guided Meditation • Liturgies
Experiences

76

In these or similar words . . .

This is done in the following or similar way.
See OCIA 50

Before Communion . . . the celebrant may briefly remind the neophytes of the preeminence of so great a Sacrament . . .
See OCIA 243

Then he concludes in these or similar words.
See OCIA 152

77



MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP: How are the fully initiated Catholic members of your parish formed to be missionary disciples? Do you think your parishioners would call themselves “missionary disciples”?

ADAPTABLE: In which ways have you been adaptable – schedule, methods, situations, needs? *[What did you learn about the process by being adaptable?]*

78



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The Steps and Stages of the Catechumenal Process

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