



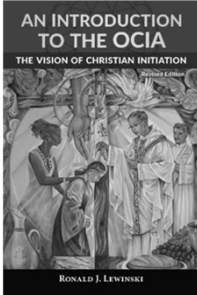
Session 1
The Six Principles of Initiation Ministry

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

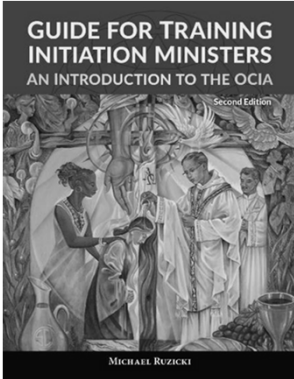
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1

Essential Resources



Small Booklets



Training Manual with 20+ videos

2

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2808796892630472>



Connect, learn, and share with other initiation ministers from around the country!

Join our **Facebook group** and connect with others to share best practices, receive quick responses to questions, and more.

3

Today's Agenda

- Prayer
- Overview of Vocabulary, Ritual Text
- Periods and Stages

2.2a

4



5

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles
and to the communal life,
to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.
Awe came upon everyone,
and many wonders and signs were done
through the apostles.
All who believed were together
and had all things in common;
they would sell their property and possessions
and divide them among all
according to each one's need.
Every day they devoted themselves
to meeting together in the temple area
and to breaking bread in their homes.
They ate their meals with exultation
and sincerity of heart,
praising God and enjoying favor with all the people.
And every day the Lord added to their number
those who were being saved.



Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

6

Loving God,
you have called us into communal living
and you instruct us to follow
in the footsteps of the Apostles.

Inspire us to mentor others
in this true school of faith.

May your Word refresh souls,
give wisdom, provide joy,
and enlighten our eyes.

With sincere hearts,
give us the courage and humility
to apprentice others as they
deepen their love for you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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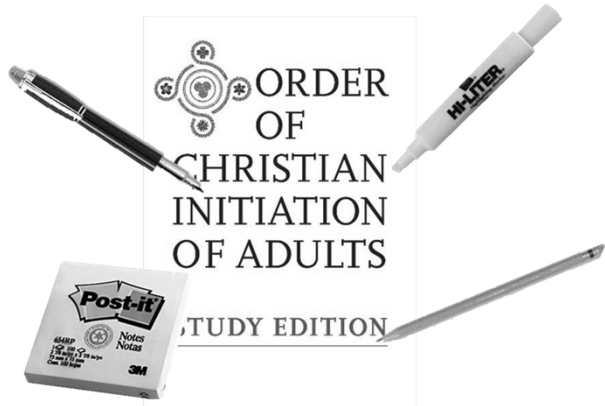
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Structure and Language of the OCIA

2 . 3

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The Ritual Text



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Structure of the Ritual Text

- Christian Initiation:** General Introduction
- National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults**
- The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**, Introduction
- Part I: Christian Initiation of Adults** (for the unbaptized catechumens)
- Part II: Rites for Particular Circumstances**
- Chapter II** Children of Catechetical Age
- Chapter III** Simpler Order of Adult Initiation
- Chapter IV** Danger of Death
- Chapter V** Preparation for Baptized, Uncatechized Adults
- Chapter VI** Reception into Full Communion
- Appendix I: Combined Rites**
- Appendix II: Acclamations, Hymns and Songs**

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We will be looking at Part I of the rite. Everything else is an adaptation.

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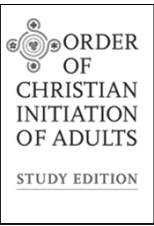
Part 1	
• is the vision of the Church	
• is the inspiration	
For Baptized Candidates	
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That in due time they be found worthy of the cleansing waters of rebirth and of renewal by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer. CELEBRATING PRAYER 66. For the Intercessions, the celebrant, extending his hands toward the catechumens, says one of the following prayers: Let us pray: (God of our Fathers,) O God, creator of the whole universe, we humbly ask you to look with favor on your servants N. and N., that they may be ever fervent in spirit, joyful in hope, and always obedient to your name. Lead them, we pray, O Lord, to the cleansing waters of rebirth, so that, leading a fruitful life in the company of your faithful, they may obtain the eternal rewards you have promised. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.	Let us pray: Almighty ever-living God, Father of all creation, who made man and woman in your own image, welcome these beloved ones who have taken this step, and grant that, hearing the word of your Christ among us, they may be made new by its power, and by your grace attain at last complete conformity with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. R. Amen. DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS 47. If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the catechumens are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A or B; if the Eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option D. A. The celebrant recalls briefly the great joy with which the catechumens have just been received and urges them to strive to live according to the word they have just heard. The group of catechumens leaves but does not immediately disperse, but with the guidance of some of the faithful they remain together to share their joy and their spiritual experience. The Deacon or the celebrant dismisses them in these or similar words: Catechumens, go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you. Catechumens: Thanks be to God.	Paragraph Numbers Options US Adaptations Editio Typica
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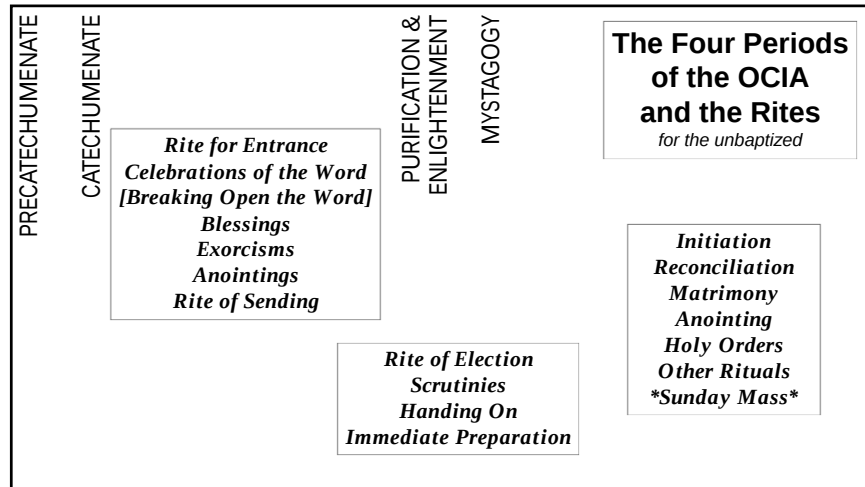
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LTP study edition: Page 26 opposite page of OCIA, #36	
	
OUTLINE OF PART I THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROCESS FOR UNBAPTIZED ADULTS PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE This is a time, of no fixed duration or structure, for inquiry and introduction to Gospel values, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith. FIRST STEP: RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on some annual date or feast, marking the beginning of the period of the catechumenate, as the inquirers express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ. PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE This is the time, in duration corresponding to the progress of the individual, for the nurturing and growth of the catechumens' faith and conversion to God. Celebrations of the Word and Prayers of Election and Blessing are meant to assist the process. SECOND STEP: RITE OF ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, by which the Church formally enrolls the catechumens' readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation and the catechumens, now the elect, express the will to receive these Sacraments. PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT This is the time immediately preceding the elect's Initiation, usually the Lenten season preceding the celebration of this Initiation at the Easter Vigil; it is a time of reflection, intensely centered on conversion, marked by celebration of the Scrutinies, the Rites of Handling On of the Creed and of the Lord's Prayer, and the Rites of Introductory Preparation on Holy Scripture. THIRD STEP: CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION This is the liturgical rite, usually integrated into the Easter Vigil, by which the elect are initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY This period, usually during Easter Time, follows the celebration of Initiation, during which the newly initiated experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of pertinent catechesis and particularly by participation with all the faithful in the Sunday Eucharist.	

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Perfect blend of... 1. Evangelization 2. Catechesis 3. Liturgy 4. Community (Parish)	Mystagogy RITE OF INITIATION Purification & Enlightenment RITE OF ELECTION Period of the Catechumenate RITE FOR ENTRANCE Evangelization & Precatechumenate
---	--

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Sorting Fish A Task at the Beginning

Initial conversations with inquirers should determine...

1. **Sacramental status**
2. **Are they evangelized?**
3. **Are they catechized?**

The book cover for 'Sorting Fish: A Task at the Beginning' by Ronald A. Oakham is shown. It features a small circular logo at the top and a paragraph of text below the title.

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Sorting Fish A Task at the Beginning

Initial conversations with inquirers should determine...

1. **Sacramental status**
2. **Are they evangelized?**
3. **Are they catechized?**

Are they validly baptized?

- If not, they are an inquirer (and later to become catechumen, elect, neophyte).
- If so, they are a candidate. Was the baptism in Catholic Church or another Christian denomination?

The RITES vary based on whether they are...

- unbaptized
- baptized non-Catholic
- baptized Catholic

An icon showing three stylized human figures, one in the foreground and two slightly behind, representing a group of people.

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Sorting Fish A Task at the Beginning

Initial conversations with inquirers should determine...

1. **Sacramental status**
2. **Are they evangelized?**
3. **Are they catechized?**

They are evangelized if...

- They "sincerely hold fast to him who, since he is the way, the truth, and the life..." OCIA, 36-37
- They have experienced "the message of Christ to the world by words and deeds..." OCIA, 9.1
- They have been "[welcomed into families], into personal conversations, and also into some of the community's gatherings." OCIA, 9.1

Next Steps

- If unbaptized or baptized (not evangelized), they enter the period of precatechumenate and evangelization. After a time, unbaptized celebrate the Rite of Entrance, the baptized *may* celebrate the Rite of Welcoming; followed by catechumenal formation.
- If baptized (evangelized), they *may* celebrate the Rite of Welcoming and continue with their formation.

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Sorting Fish
A Task at the Beginning

Initial conversations with inquirers should determine...

1. **Sacramental status**
2. **Are they evangelized?**
3. **Are they catechized?**

They are catechized if...

- They have experienced catechesis “suited to the liturgical year,” and have acquired a “suitable knowledge of dogmas and precepts” and “intimate knowledge of the mystery of salvation.” OCIA, 75.1
- They “familiar with the practice of Christian life”, celebrate the Church’s liturgy, and engage in apostolic works that build up the Church. OCIA, 75.2-4

Next Steps

- If unbaptized or baptized (not catechized), they enter the period of precatechumenate and evangelization. After a time, unbaptized celebrate the Rite for Entrance, the baptized *may* celebrate the Rite of Welcoming; followed by catechumenal formation. *This is the same as the previous slide.*
- If baptized (catechized), they *may* celebrate the Rite of Welcoming and continue with their formation.
- Formation needs for catechized and not catechized is very different.

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Vocabulary

The unbaptized:

Inquirers before the Rite for Entrance

Catechumens from the Rite for Entrance to the Rite of Election

Elect from Rite of Election until full initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)

Neophytes from full initiation until the one-year anniversary

The baptized:

Candidates (non-Catholic Christian) until full reception (Confirmation and Eucharist*)

Candidates (Catholic, uncatechized) for Eucharist and/or Confirmation*

*Reconciliation should be celebrated before the Sacraments of Initiation.

2.3a1

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Vocabulary

The rite . . . [of reception for baptized Christians] is so arranged that **no further burden is imposed** than what is necessary to restore communion and unity. OCIA, 473

The baptized:

Candidates (non-Catholic Christian) until full reception (Confirmation and Eucharist*)

Candidates (Catholic, uncatechized) for Eucharist and/or Confirmation*

*Reconciliation should be celebrated before the Sacraments of Initiation.

2.3a1

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The unbaptized:

Inquirers

Catechumens

Elect

Neophytes

The baptized:

Candidates (non-Catholic Christian)

Candidates (Catholic, uncatechized)

A few words before we begin...

- **Unbaptized and the Uncatechized Candidates:** formation is the same; rites are different
- **Catechized Candidates:** formation* is fundamentally different than that of the unbaptized and uncatechized candidates; rites are very different

* their journey and their formation are inspired by the vision of Part I of the OCIA, but it is different!

- Overlap between groups may happen.
- The community’s role is irreplaceable.
- Encounter > Learning
- Our walk-through the process is the vision, not the *how-to-do-this* guide.

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Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate

2.3

First, for the unbaptized and uncatechized candidates
Then, we'll adapt this for the baptized candidates.

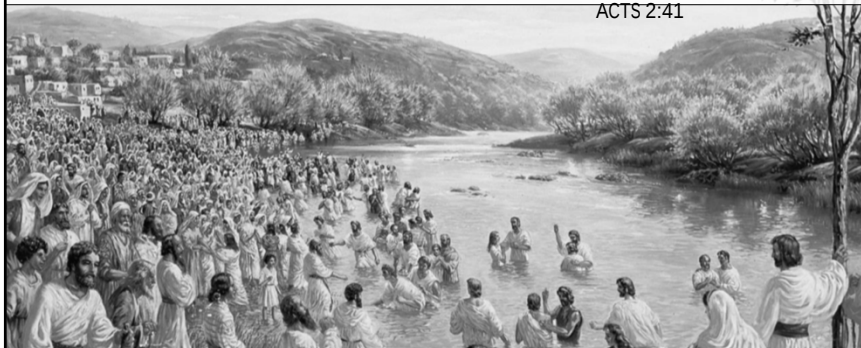
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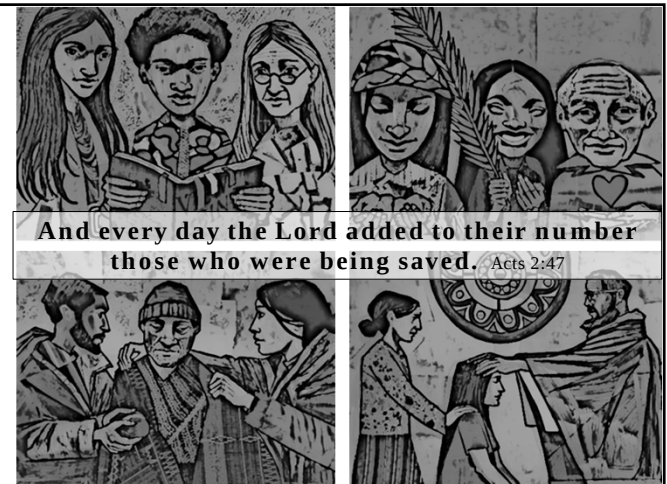
Those who accepted his message
were baptized, and about
3,000 persons were added that day.

ACTS 2:41



27

They devoted
themselves to the
**teaching of
the apostles**
and to the
**communal
life,**
to the
**breaking of
the bread**
and to the
prayers.
Acts 2:42



**And every day the Lord added to their number
those who were being saved.** Acts 2:47

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Evangelization → Inquiry

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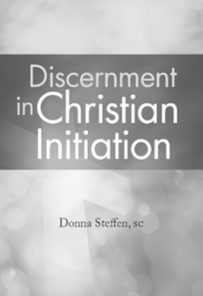
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Initial Discernment in Precatechumenate

Conversation, Relationship

1. What brings you to our parish? What are you looking for?
2. Do you know anyone in our parish? (This helps to identify potential sponsors.)
3. How have you been involved in church?
4. Why is now the time to seek Baptism?
5. How often and when does your family pray?
6. Tell me what you know about God.
7. Tell me what you know about Jesus Christ.
8. What Bible stories do you know? Which ones are your favorites?

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Discernment
in Christian
Initiation

Donna Steffen, sc

Appendix 1: The Initial Interview

This interview could occur in the inquirer's home or in a parish setting. The environment should be welcoming and inviting, avoiding the formality of sitting across a desk or table from one another.

1. Greet and welcome the inquirer.
2. Get to know the inquirer.

In discussing the following areas, remember to respond with reflective statements that include content and feelings, and to use open-ended questions that invite a fuller response. Ask about

 - a. family, work or school, home—if in geographical area;
 - b. the reason for inquiring, and why at this time;
 - c. what the person is looking for and/or desiring for self;
 - d. religious upbringing and background, including Baptism;
 - e. relationship with God through the years and at this time; and
 - f. how inquiring in the Catholic Church relates to spouse and/or children, and whether there is family support. At this initial meeting, pay attention to information gleaned regarding former marriage situations without discussing annulments unless the question is raised by the inquirer.
3. Talk with the inquirer about the initiation process.

Communicate that this adult faith journey

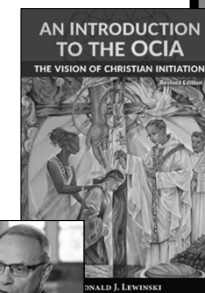
 - a. is individualized and involves personal faith in relationship to life experience;
 - b. takes time and is open-ended;
 - c. occurs in the context of community;
 - d. happens in stages with periodic liturgical celebrations; and
 - e. involves ongoing discernment, including individual conferences and team discernment.
4. Give specific information about inquiry sessions and future catechumenate sessions. Include time and place, and a sense of what to expect with each. Stress that the time of both is open-ended, and initiation ministers will be listening with the person for when the readiness is there for movement to the next stage. The precatechumenate is a time of exploration with no commitment.
5. Mention that a sponsor will be needed when moving on to the catechumenate. Ask if they know someone in the parish (not a family member) who should be considered.
6. Ask how all of this sounds to them, and invite comments and concerns.
7. Get any specific information needed (name, address, spouse, children, Baptism date and place, and so forth).
8. Express gratitude for coming and sharing, and extend an invitation to the next inquiry session.

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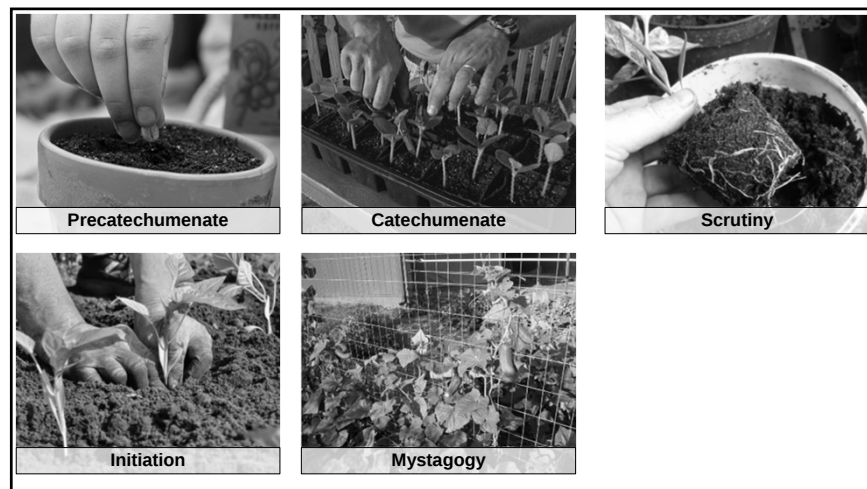
[This is a time for] negotiation and discovery during which **a foundation of trust and respect is laid.**

Hospitality, sincerity, and credible witness...
are the basic tools for the precatechumenate.

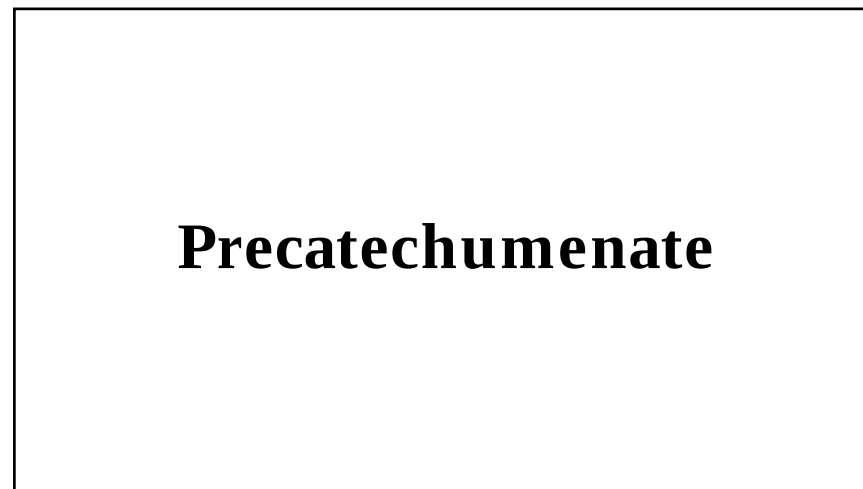
-Fr. Ron Lewinski
An Introduction to the OCIA



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OCIA, 36

Although the Order of Initiation begins with admission into the catechumenate, the period that precedes it, **the “precatechumenate,” is of great importance and should not normally be omitted.**

35

Rite for Entrance **OCIA, 42**

In order for them to take this step, it is necessary for

1. the beginnings of a spiritual life and the foundations of Christian doctrine to have been planted in the inquirers (the first faith)
2. an initial conversion and a desire to change their lives and enter a relationship with God in Christ
3. a consequent beginning of a sense of penitence
4. a habit of calling on God and of prayer
5. a sense of the Church
6. a first experience of the company and spirit of Christians through contact with a Priest or some members of the community
7. and preparation for this liturgical order.

For a roadmap to ministry in the periods... look ahead to the prerequisites of the threshold rite that follows...

36

Rite for Entrance **OCIA, 42**

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1. the **beginnings** of a spiritual life and the **foundations** of Christian doctrine to have been planted in the inquirers (the first faith)
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4. a habit of calling on God and of prayer
5. a sense of the Church
6. a **first** experience of the company and spirit of Christians through contact with a Priest or some members of the community
7. and **preparation** for this liturgical order.

For a roadmap to ministry in the periods...

look ahead to the prerequisites of the threshold rite that follows...

37

OCIA, 36

For within it takes place that evangelization in which the living God is confidently and constantly proclaimed...



Pope St. Paul VI describes evangelization as “proclaiming Christ to those who do not know him.”

Evangelii nuntiandi, 17

38

OCIA, 37

From evangelization, carried out with God’s help, arise faith and initial conversion, by which each person feels called away from sin and into the profound mystery of divine love.

The entire Period of the Precatechumenate is devoted to this evangelization, so that the will to follow Christ and to seek Baptism may mature.

“All evangelization is based on” the Word of God. *Evangelii Gaudium, 174*



39

OCIA, 38

Therefore, in this period a **suitable explanation of the Gospel should be given** to the inquirers by Priests, Deacons or catechists and other lay people;

careful help should be offered to them so that they may cooperate with divine grace with a purified and clearer intention, and that the group of inquirers may then more easily meet with Christian families and groups.

40

Sunday Gospel



Gospel Living

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Generosity
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-Control



...which the living God is confidently and constantly proclaimed. OCIA, 36

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OCIA, 38

Therefore, in this period a suitable explanation of the Gospel should be given to the inquirers by Priests, Deacons or catechists and other lay people;

careful help should be offered to them so that they may cooperate with divine grace with a purified and clearer intention, and that **the group of inquirers may then more easily meet with Christian families and groups.**

more in a moment →

42



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This period is a time for the inquirers...

- to get to know Jesus Christ
- to get to know the community (prayer, works, community)
- to deepen their relationship with our Loving God through the power of the Holy Spirit
- telling stories;
 - the great Scripture stories of our tradition, the stories of our parish and parishioners, the stories of saints and sinners alike
- to come to initial faith in Christ
- to respond to God's call to discipleship

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National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults

Norm 1

The evangelization of unbaptized persons during the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate will **lead them through Scripture, prayer, and friendly conversation to an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ** as the fullness of God's revelation.

45

OCIA, 9

In addition to those things mentioned in *Christian Initiation*, General Introduction (no. 7), **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.**

46

OCIA, 9.1

In the time of evangelization and precatechumenate the faithful should remember that the apostolate of the Church and of all her members is principally directed toward **making known the message of Christ to the world by words and deeds** and toward communicating his grace.

They should therefore

- **show themselves willing to exhibit a spirit of Christian community,**
- **to welcome inquirers into their families, into personal conversations, and also into some of the community's gatherings.**

47

Precatechumante and Evangelization for Baptized, Catechized Candidates



• Inquiry

- This is still important.

• Evangelization

- This is assessed during "Sorting Fish" at the beginning.

• Precatechumenal Formation

- This made be adapted to be "Catch up on Catholic Basics" before beginning / joining Catholic candidates for formation.

48



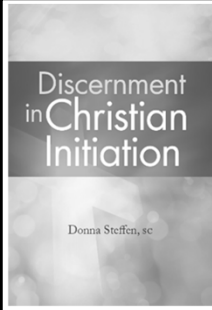
DISCUSSION

The parish is to “exhibit a spirit of Christian community.”
What does this look like?

Parishioners are “to welcome inquirers into their families, into personal conversations, and also into some of the community’s gatherings.”
What does this look like?

2 . 4 a

49



Appendix 2: The Interview during the Precatechumenate

This interview occurs several weeks before the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, when the precatechumenate leaders see signs that the initial conversion is happening. The areas of discussion come out of the prerequisites for this rite stated in paragraph 42. A designated initiation minister conducts the interview in an appropriate setting; that is, private, inviting, with no desk or table between the inquirer and interviewer. The interviewer uses appropriate discerning listening skills to enable the inquirer to talk at a deeper level about inner awarenesses. Each of the person's responses may be delved into, following the inquirer's lead and willingness to engage.

1. The interviewer begins with a greeting, welcome, and expression of gratitude for coming.
2. There is a moment of prayer. For example, “Let’s take a moment of quiet to recall we are in God’s presence, and are here because of God’s invitation. (*Pause for a moment.*) God, thank you for your presence, and ways you invite us and call us to you. Be with us now. Help us listen together to your action in the life of (inquirer’s name). Guide our time together. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”
3. The interviewer names this as a time of listening to God’s actions within the inquirer, with the intention of discerning the appropriate timing for movement to the catechumenate.
4. Invitations to talk about areas named in paragraph 42 follow:
 - a. How has this time of precatechumenate/inquiry been for you?
 - b. Are you noticing any changes happening in your relationship with your spouse/children?
 - c. Have you found that you are any different at work (or school) than you used to be?
 - d. Are there any changes in yourself, in how you feel as a person?
 - e. How has your relationship with God been affected by your coming to the inquiry sessions?
 - f. Can you talk about any ways your prayer has changed?
 - g. Do you have a sense of how God is leading you, or where God might be inviting you to grow or change?
 - h. How are you coming to appreciate what church is?
 - i. Do you have any questions or concerns you’d like to discuss?
5. If an annulment is needed and has not yet been discussed, and the inquirer is interested in pursuing membership in the Catholic Church, then the inquirer should be encouraged to talk with the appropriate person to begin the annulment process.
- 6a. If the inquirer, initiation ministers, or interviewer has concerns about the person moving on to the catechumenate, these would be talked about in conjunction with responses the person has made to the above questions. There may be an agreement about coming together again in another month or six weeks to see what’s happening in the person then. The interviewer concludes the conference.

2 . 3

50

Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate

51

The Rite for Entrance OCIA, 41

The rite commonly called “Entrance into the Catechumenate” is **most important** since that is when, coming together in public for the first time, those entering the catechumenate **manifest their will to the Church**, and when the Church, fulfilling her apostolic office, receives those who intend to become her members. God grants them his grace, since their desire is expressed openly in this celebration, and their reception and first consecration are marked by the Church.

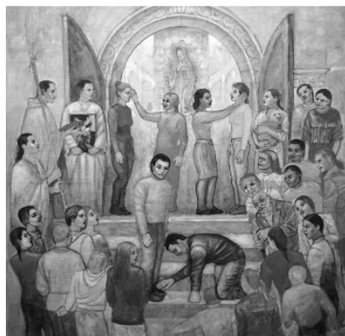
OCIA #50

Celebrant: What do you ask of God’s Church?

52

There are a few things to keep in mind...

- It is for the unbaptized.
- The baptized candidates have an optional Rite of Welcoming.
- A combined rite is possible, but is it necessary?



53

There are a few things to keep in mind...

- It is a threshold rite.
- It marks entrance into a new period of formation, the Catechumenate.
- After the celebration of this rite, the inquirer is known as a catechumen and they are considered as “house of Christ” (OCIA, 47).



2.3a3

54

Rite for Entrance

- First public assembly and ritual
- Ready to declare their intention to the Church
- The Church accepts them as intending to become members.
- They are claimed for Christ by the Sign of the Cross.
- They are formally admitted to the Liturgy of the Word.
- They are dismissed.



55

Before the Celebration of the Rite

Suitable and appropriate time for investigating and purifying motives for conversion (see OCIA, 43)



56

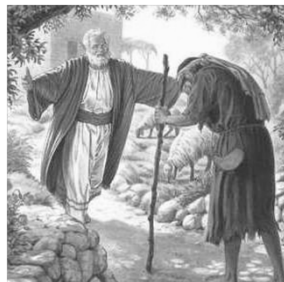
WHEN: Not too early and any time of year, even two or three times each year; preferably at Sunday Mass; when the inquirers and the parish are both ready. (See OCIA, 18.3)

WHO: Inquirers, Sponsors, Group of the Faithful

WHERE: 1) Outside the church
2) inside at the entrance
3) elsewhere or some other site suitable for this rite

HOW: Joyfully and warmly.

Priest or deacon “goes to meet them” while assembly sings a song.



57

Brief Outline of the Rite

RITE OF INTRODUCTION
[Hymn]
Preliminary Instruction
[Chant]
Dialogue
Initial Commitment or Rite of Exorcism and Renunciation of False Worship
Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly
Signing of the Forehead and of the Senses
Signing of the Forehead
[Acclamation]
[Signing of the Other Senses]
[Acclamation]
Prayer
[Giving of a New Name]
[Presentation of a Cross]
Introduction into the Church
Chant
SACRED CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD
Instruction
Readings
Homily
[Presentation of the Gospels (and of a Cross)]
Intercessions for the Catechumens
Concluding Prayer
[Dismissal of the Catechumens]
[Chant]
[CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST]
[Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)]
[Creed]
Preparation of the Gifts

58

The Rite for Entrance **OCIA, 47**

Home
in
Christ

Cherished
by the
Church

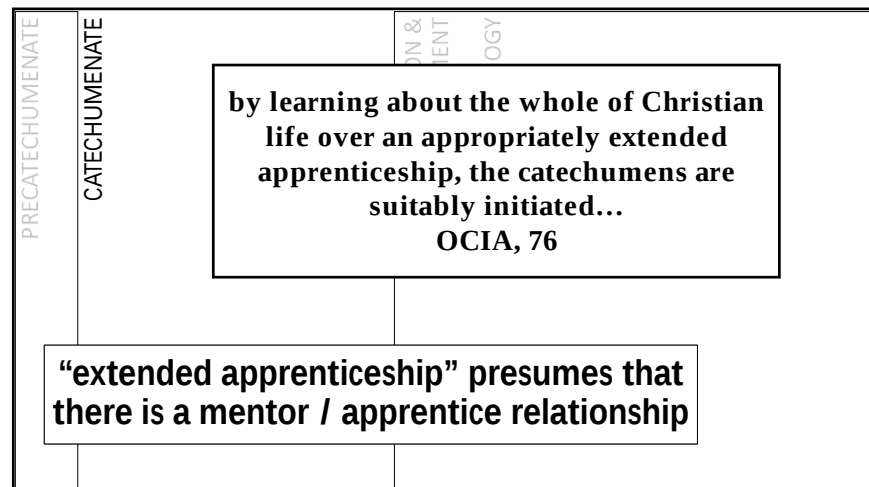
Nourished
on the
Word

Thus, from that moment, **catechumens**,
whom **Mother Church** already **embraces**
as her own **with her love and care**,
and who are joined to her,
already **belong to the house of Christ**,
for they are **fed** by the Church
with the word of God and
the aid of the liturgy.

59

Period of the Catechumenate

60



61

National Statutes, Norm 4

Ordinarily, a person who has entered the catechumenate is to remain in it from at least the Easter Time of one year until the beginning of the Easter Time of the next year;

preferably it should begin before Lent in one year and extend until Easter of the following year.

62

OCIA, 76

The length of time appropriate for the catechumenate depends both on the grace of God and on various circumstances

namely on the plan of instruction of the catechumenate itself, the number of catechists, Deacons and Priests, the cooperation of individual catechumens, the facilities necessary for finding a place for the catechumenate and occupying it, and the help of the local community.

So nothing can be laid down *a priori*.

The catechumenate... should last long enough for their conversion and faith to mature, even over several years, if need be.

Moreover, by learning about the whole of Christian life over an appropriately extended apprenticeship, the catechumens... are introduced into the faith, liturgy, and charity proper to the People of God.

63

They devoted themselves to the

teaching of the apostles

and to the

communal life,

to the

breaking of the bread

and to the

prayers.

Acts 2:42

And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:47

64

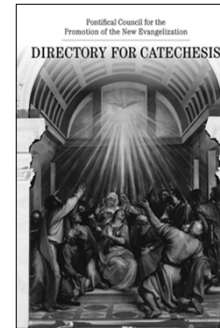
I wish I went through the RCIA,
I learned so much...

*Have you
thought this?
Have you heard
this said?*



65

The catechumenate as a source of inspiration for catechesis...



“a training period in the whole
Christian life” (Ad Gentes, 14)

aimed at leading the catechumen to
the full encounter with the mystery of
Christ in the life of the community

See Directory for Catechesis, 61

66

The baptismal catechumenate...

...seems the most
appropriate model for
adult faith formation...



Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, 81

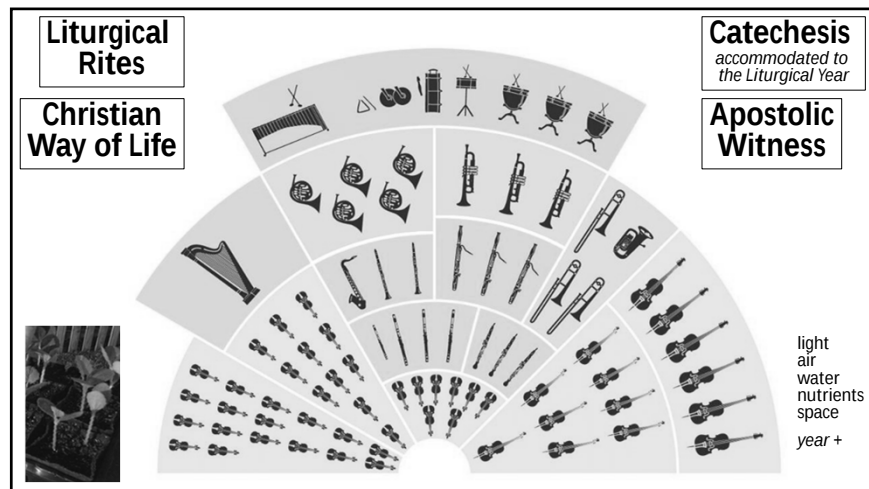
67

§88 Scripture and tradition form the
core content of all adult catechesis,
for the Church has always considered
them the "supreme rule of faith."

§89 The Catholic faith is like a
symphony in which the unity of faith
finds expression in richly diverse
formulations and manifestations.



68



69

Look forward
(to the Rite of Election)
to know today's "syllabus."

70

Rite of Election, Affirmation by the Godparents **OCIA, 131B**

With God as your witness...

- Have they faithfully listened to **God's word** proclaimed by the Church?
- Have they begun to **walk in God's presence**, treasuring the word they have received?
- Have they persevered in **fraternal communion** and in **the prayers**?

71

OCIA, 75.1
Martyria

Catechesis
suited to
the Liturgical Year



72

OCIA, 75.1

Appropriate catechesis,
given by Priests, Deacons or catechists
and other lay people,
divided into steps and fully presented,
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.

73

Models of “Appropriate” Catechesis

- Catechesis Suited to the Liturgical Year
- Doctrinal Catechesis
- Dismissal Catechesis Covered also in 75.3 →

74

Catechesis Suited to the Liturgical Year

Within the cycle of the year...
the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ,
from his incarnation and birth until his ascension,
the day of Pentecost, and the expectation
of blessed hope and of the Lord's return.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #102



75

Doctrinal Catechesis

ADVENT

End Times, Judgement, Messiah

CHRISTMAS

Incarnation, Mary, Call to Holiness

LENT

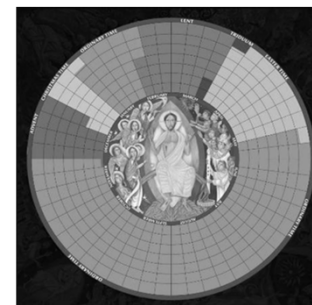
Conversion, Repentance, Forgiveness

EASTER

Redemption, Church/Mission, Holy Spirit

ORDINARY TIME

Eucharist, Discipleship, Saints as Models,
Answering the Call, Morality, End Times



76

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77

Dismissal Catechesis

To keep holy the Lord's Day,
from the very beginning of
the Period of the Catechumenate...

The first part of the celebration
of the Sunday Mass should
gradually be opened to them.

After the Liturgy of the Word
the Dismissal of the Catechumens
should, if possible, take place...

OCIA, 83B

*Catechumens consider what
they see, hear, and experience
during the Liturgy of the Word.*

...is a continuation of
the Liturgy of the Word

...is prayer and reflection "filled with
the spirit of the Gospel" (RCIA, 16)

...considers the meaning of
the Word in their lives.

...helps them articulate how God
is present in the Word

78

VIDEO Catechesis during the Catechumenate

Name one thing...

NEW • DIFFERENT • AFFIRMING • "AMEN!"

2.5a

79

DISCUSSION

Comments from the Video?

Choose a major signs, symbols, ritual
gestures in the Rite for Entrance? What
does it say about Christian discipleship?

Name a time in which catechesis
brought you into communion / intimacy
with Christ.

2.4b

80

A quick word about catechesis for
catechized, baptized candidates...

81

Formation Experience for Baptized Candidates at Saint Mary of the Lake (Chicago)

Year-Round Inquiry using QR code, email, phone calls, meetings.

Initial Interview to determine formation journey and rites –
it varies based on needs of candidates.

Initial Welcome Session or gathering with brief sharing of who
has brought the gift of faith into their lives.

Formation

- The sessions typically cover → →
- Throughout the journey, there is also an expectation of participating in the life of the church as well, not just attending sessions. Each session always leads with Sunday gospel reflection from the week prior.

Closing Retreat Experience

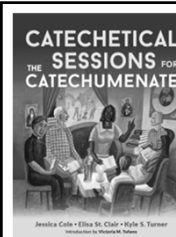
82

Formation Experience for Baptized Candidates at Saint Mary of the Lake (Chicago)

1. *Special session for non-Catholic candidates:
Intro to Catholic Practices, Catholic Language*
2. The Liturgical Year, Liturgy and Prayer
3. The Sacraments
4. Living Our Faith: Catholic Social Teaching, Works of Mercy, Beatitudes, Virtues, Living the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, etc.
5. The Creed
6. Discipleship
7. Mary, The Saints
8. Brief Church History
9. Reconciliation/ Eucharist / Confirmation

Who attends?
When do these take place?
How often?
What about sponsors?

83



BELIEFS

1. The Most Holy Trinity
2. Jesus, the Son of God
3. The Holy Spirit
4. Divine Revelation
5. Creation
6. Original Sin
7. The Incarnation
8. The Life of Jesus
9. The Paschal Mystery
10. Sacrifice
11. Sin, Mercy, and Grace
12. The Resurrection of the Lord
13. The Ascension of the Lord
14. Suffering
15. The Kingdom of God
16. Salvation and Redemption
17. Death and Eternal Life
18. The Second Coming of the Lord

SACRAMENTS

19. A Catholic Sacramental Worldview
20. Jesus, the Church, and the Seven Sacraments
21. Baptism: Session 1
22. Baptism: Session 2
23. Confirmation
24. Eucharist
25. Penance and Reconciliation
26. Anointing of the Sick
27. Holy Orders
28. Matrimony

HOLY PEOPLE

29. The Church
30. The Blessed Virgin Mary
31. The Communion of Saints
32. Apostles, Evangelists, and Other Holy People

PRAYER AND LITURGY

33. Catholics and Scripture
34. How Do Catholics Pray?
35. The Mass
36. Liturgical Prayer
37. Personal and Devotional Prayer
38. The Liturgical Year
39. The Creed
40. The Lord's Prayer

CATHOLIC LIVING

41. Faith, Hope, and Love
42. Discipleship and Mission
43. Vocations
44. Virtues
45. The Ten Commandments
46. The Beatitudes
47. Charity and Justice
48. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
49. Catholic Social Teaching
50. Christian Morality

84

OCIA, 75.2

Koinonia

Community

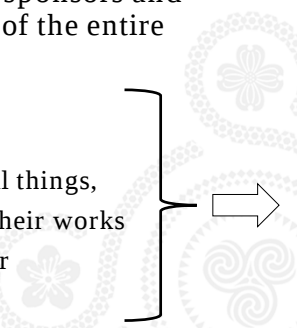
*The Christian
Way of Life*



2.3

85

OCIA, 75.2



Becoming familiar with the **practice of Christian life**, helped by the example and support of sponsors and godparents, and indeed of the faithful of the entire community, they **grow accustomed** to

- praying more easily to God
- witnessing to the faith,
- keeping an expectation of Christ in all things,
- following inspiration from above in their works
- and showing charity to their neighbor even to renunciation of themselves.

}

→

86

Praying more easily to God



- **Daily personal prayer:** Morning and evening prayer, *lectio divina*, or journaling reflections on Scripture.
- **Guided meditation or retreats:** Participating in retreats focused on deepening prayer life.
- **Prayer groups:** Joining small faith-sharing circles or rosary groups to practice communal prayer.



87

Witnessing to the faith



- **Sharing faith stories:** Speaking about faith in small groups, at parish events, or in mentoring relationships.
- **Living ethical choices:** Demonstrating integrity, honesty, and Christian values at work or in the community.
- **Evangelization:** Helping newcomers or seekers understand the faith, through invitation to parish events or service.



88

Keeping an expectation of Christ in all things



- **Mindful reflection:** Asking, “How would Christ act in this situation?” before making decisions.
- **Preparing for Sacramental awareness:** Recognizing God’s presence in daily life and in parish life (Mass, Eucharist, reconciliation).
- **Faith-centered goal setting:** Aligning personal, professional, and family goals with Gospel values.

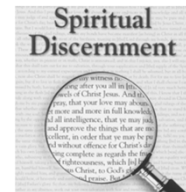


89

Following inspiration from above in their works



- **Volunteering:** Responding to parish or community needs with energy and discernment.
- **Creative expression:** Using gifts—music, art, writing, teaching—to serve and inspire others.
- **Spiritual discernment:** Seeking God’s guidance before significant decisions, through prayer, reflection, and counsel.



90

Showing charity to their neighbor, even to renunciation of themselves



- **Acts of service:** Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, mentoring youth, supporting refugees.
- **Forgiveness and patience:** Extending grace to others in difficult relationships.
- **Sacrificial giving:** Donating time, energy, or resources—even when inconvenient—for the good of others.



91

OCIA, 75.3

Leitourgia

Suitable
Liturgical Rites



92



Leitourgia = “the work of the people”

The parish is the primary place where the worship of God takes place.

Catechumens share in this worship, though not completely.

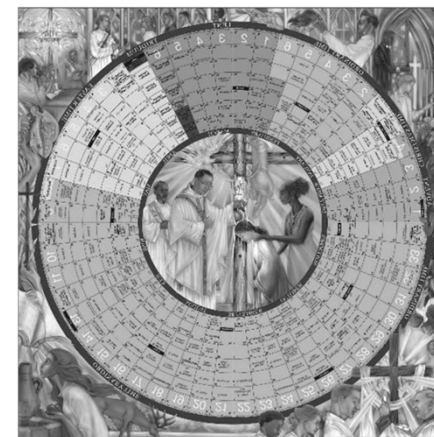
They are assisted on their journey by Mother Church with suitable liturgical rites and by them they are now gradually cleansed and sustained with divine blessing. . . They must normally be *gently dismissed* before the Eucharistic celebration.

OCIA, 75.3

93

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

*Unfolding the
Paschal Mystery*



94

Questions to Ask (and answer)



How does liturgy relate to proclamation?

- There is meant to be a symbiotic interrelationship between liturgy and proclamation in our “secular” activities, careers, citizenship, society, culture (a chief challenge of Vatican II).

How does liturgy both form and express community?

- Our liturgical documents describe the liturgy as both “source and summit” of community life.

How does liturgy give rise to service? And how is it impacted by service?

- Immersing ourselves in the world’s needs drives us back to the Table, makes us long for the coming of God’s Kingdom.

95

The Rites Belonging to the Catechumenate



- Celebrations of the Word of God – *utmost importance*
- Minor Exorcisms
- Blessings of the Catechumens
- Anointings of the Catechumens
- Breaking Open the Word (Dismissal) [see OCIA, no. 75.3]
- *Optional* Rites for Handing On of the Creed and of the Lord’s Prayer
The Ephphatha Rite

96

Catechumens are also to take part in other parish liturgies. Consider the other rites of the Church... how do they catechize?



97

RCIA, 75.4
Diakonia

**Apostolic
Living**



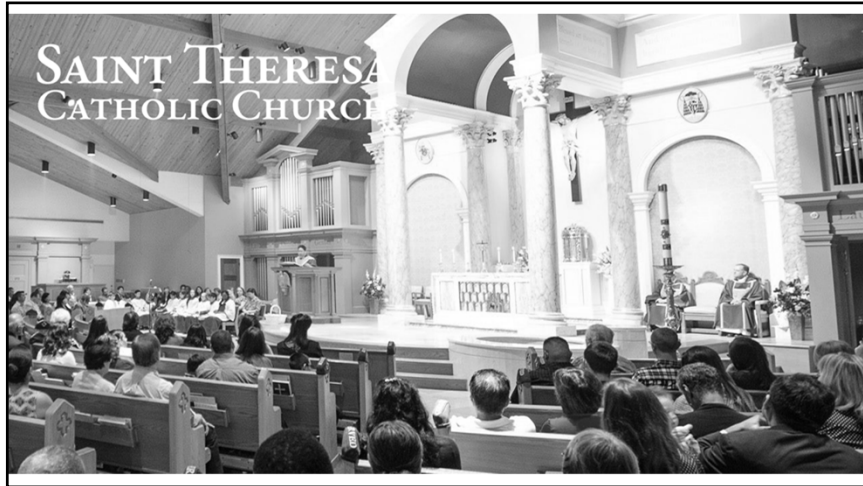
98



99



100



101



102

OCIA, 75.4

Since the life of the Church is apostolic, catechumens too should learn to cooperate actively in evangelization and the building up of the Church by the testimony of their life and their profession of faith.

(See *Ad gentes*, 14)



103

Catechumens should therefore be properly initiated into the mystery of salvation and the practices of gospel living;

by means of sacred rites celebrated at successive times,
they should be led gradually into the life of faith, liturgy, and charity belonging to the people of God.

Ad gentes, 14

104

Solemnity of Christ the King, Year A

See Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations
will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them
one from another,
as a shepherd separates
the sheep from the goats.



105

HUNGRY food
THIRSTY drink
STRANGER welcome
NAKED clothes
ILL care
PRISON visit



106

OCIA, 75.2

...they pass from the old self to the new,
perfected in Christ.

This passage, bringing with it
a **progressive change of outlook** and morals,
must become **evident in its
social consequences**,
and must be gradually developed...

107

How?

- Doing things as a full parish community.
- Doing things together with other catechumens, candidates, and initiation ministers.
- Doing things on their own.

*Discuss it. Break it open.
Connect the stories to the
story of Christ and the Church.*

108

The **texts** of the OCIA
tell us what the
“Apostolic Life of the Parish”
looks like.

109

Rite of Entrance, Intercessions for the Catechumens **OCIA, 65**

That they find in our community
visible signs of unity and generous love.



Community Clean-Up



Caring for Families



Food Drive

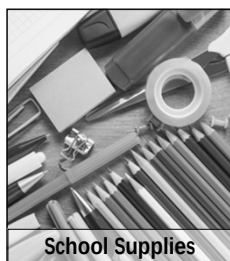
110

Rite of Entrance, Intercessions for the Catechumens **OCIA, 65**

That their hearts and ours become
ever more responsive to the needs of others.



Making a Meal



School Supplies



Coat Drive

111

Rite of Entrance, Initial Commitment **OCIA, 52C**

This is eternal life:
to know the true God and Jesus Christ...
you must...

- learn to make the mind of Christ Jesus your own,
- strive to model your life
on the teachings of the Gospel,
- and so, love the Lord your God and your neighbor
as Christ commanded and showed us...

112

Rite of Election, Intercessions for the Elect **OCIA, 134B**

That they may renounce self-centeredness
and think of others rather than themselves.



113

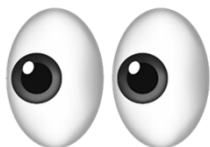
Yes, they learn about the apostolic life
through the catechetical gatherings...



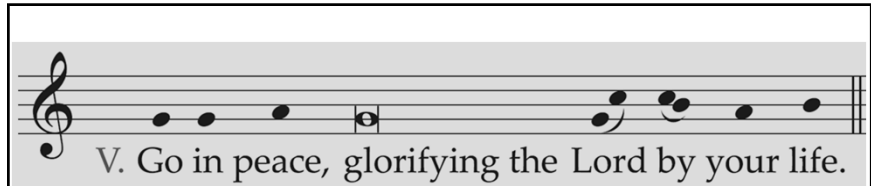
114

Yes, they learn about the apostolic life
through the catechetical gatherings...

- through the outreach that the parish already has;
- through the parish's examples of "apostolic witness";
- through the parish's pattern of looking outside itself!



115



What does it mean... look like... ?
HOW do we help them to do this?

116

National Statutes, Norm 6

The formation of catechumens is to be comprehensive.
It is to be:

- 1° suited to the liturgical year and supported by the Church's liturgy
- 2° rooted in Sacred Scripture, the truths of Catholic doctrine and the moral life, and aided by catechetical texts
such as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, texts based upon that Catechism, such as the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, and other texts approved by the local ordinary;
- 3° exercised in works of service and charity

117

The baptismal catechumenate provides apprenticeship in Christian living and believing...

Adult **faith formation** should always **actively** challenge participants to get involved with their own faith journey—

passive listening is never enough;

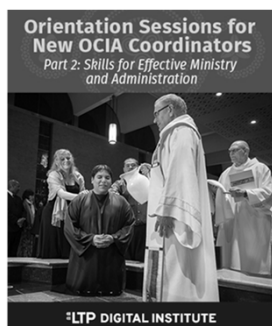
the goal is always conversion.

—Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, #81

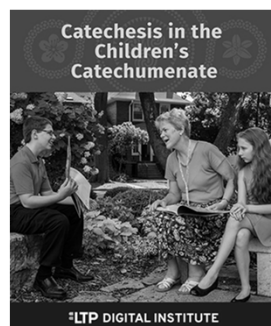


118

Name your one TAKE-AWAY in the chat on the left.



8:00-9:30pm ET
September 14, 21, 28



8:00-9:30pm ET
October 14, 21, 28

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