

Diocese of Westminster

AGENCY FOR EVANGELISATION

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

&

Rite of Election

**Preparation Pack for Priests & Catechists
2017**



Dear Clergy and Catechists,

Since the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults was restored to the Church in 1972 after the Second Vatican Council, our parishes have endeavoured to implement it and we have witnessed the entry of many people into the Church through Baptism, and the reception of many others into full communion with the Church.

The RCIA is the sacramental process established by the Church for the initiation of adults. The beautiful rituals of this process, properly celebrated in the midst of our parish communities, call everyone in the parish to conversion and renewal, not just those seeking initiation. There are diverse roles involved in the process and the whole Catholic community is asked to participate.

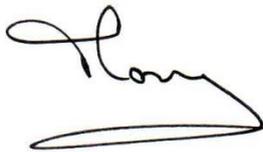
One of the joys many of us experience is meeting with Catechumens and the RCIA Teams when they gather with Cardinal Vincent in the Cathedral on the first weekend of Lent for the Rite of Election. After Easter each year, those who were initiated at the Easter Vigil - the neophytes - gather with the Cardinal at the Cathedral once again for a Paschal Eucharist. Having been nourished on their journey by the Word of God, they witness to their faith with joy as full members of the Church, now nourished by the Bread of Life in our parish communities.

This RCIA resource pack is designed to assist clergy and catechists to celebrate the RCIA process and the Rite of the Church which are a key parts of the RCIA process.

Please do contact us if we can be of assistance to you and RCIA process in your parish.

We look forward to seeing you in the Cathedral for the Rite of Election in 2017.

On behalf of the Catechetical team,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Crowley', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mary Crowley
Catechetical Adviser

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RCIA & RITE of ELECTION PREPARATION 2017

Important steps in the RCIA process, related documentation and interviews:

Before you start the RCIA process

The **Parish Priest** should interview each person who asks to join the parish RCIA process before it starts to make sure that they are able and free to begin the process. **As this may involve them talking about possibly painful memories of the past and be of a very confidential nature, this task should not be delegated by the parish priest to anyone other than to another priest of the parish.**

In a gentle and pastoral way, he will be able to:

- ascertain the 'state of life' of each potential Catechumen and Candidate. He will be able to ask about their marriage and any previous marriage(s) and any other issues which might be inconsistent with being a Catholic Christian (cf, RCIA 5, 13, 35, 43, 108, Canon Law 530 and 865). (See page 16 – Marriage Status Chart) **If the person has been married and divorced they should be referred to the Marriage Tribunal, even if they have not entered another union or have any immediate plans to do so**
- discern what catechesis or process is most appropriate for the Candidates who have already been baptised, exploring their understanding of the Baptism they have already received and their knowledge and practice of life as a Christian (cf RCIA 75). (See page 17 – RCIA Process Chart for Inquirers)
- Documentation: Complete an initial enquiry form for all inquirers (see Appendix).

At end of the Pre-Catechumenate period

Before the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (or at the end of the time of enquiry before the Rite of Welcome), the Parish Priest should interview each Catechumen and Candidate once more. At this point in time the weight of discernment on whether or not an individual should go forward rests with the individual; nonetheless, before the rite is celebrated, it is important for the Parish Priest to evaluate the person's motives and dispositions (cf RCIA 43).

- Note: Canon Law grants prerogatives to catechumens which are proper to all Christians. They may participate in some activities proper to Christians, but not in those that are exclusive to Christians. (Can. 206§2; cf RCIA 47).
- Documentation: Once they have been accepted into the Order of Catechumens the new Catechumens should be registered in the parish in a **Book of Catechumens**, together with the names of their sponsors, the minister, and the date and place of celebration should also be included.
Candidates are not received into the Order of Catechumens because they are already baptised, but you may want to keep a record in a parish book.

Before the Rite of Election (and Affirmation)

The Parish Priest should interview each person again. This time the weight of discernment on whether to proceed rests with the Church (cf RCIA 75). In his discernment, therefore, the Parish Priest might fruitfully collaborate with Godparents, Sponsors and catechists.

Documentation

If the decision is to proceed with Baptism or reception, the parish priest should ensure that an **Application for Admission into Full Communion with the Catholic Church** is completed and returned to the Agency for Evangelisation for every Catechumen (those who will be fully initiated by Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil) and every Candidate (those already baptised, who are preparing for reception, Confirmation and to receive the Eucharist) before **3rd February 2017**. These will be collated by the Agency and forwarded to the Chancery.

A copy of these forms can be found on the diocesan website: www.rcdow.org.uk via the intranet and on p.11 of this booklet

The completed application must be completed and signed by every Catechumen or Candidate and must be witnessed and dated by the parish priest and sent to the Agency for Evangelisation (not the Chancery office) prior the Rite of Election. When sending your completed applications please also inform the Agency how many of your Catechumens and Candidates will be attending the Rite of Election. **(using form on p.19)**

The deadline for submitting completed applications and informing us how many Catechumens and Candidates will be attending the Rite of Election is **3rd February 2017**. They should be sent to:

**Mr Warren Brown,
Diocese of Westminster,
Vaughan House,
46 Francis Street,
London SW1P 1QN**

After the Easter Vigil (or when the Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated)

Please remember to enter the information into the Parish Registers:

Documentation

Catechumens (Neophytes)

- are registered in the baptismal register (noting their confirmation too).
- and also in the Confirmation register.

Candidates

- are registered in a special book of those received into the Church. A note of their place and date of Baptism should also be included.
- are also registered in the Confirmation register

If you have any questions, please contact the Agency for Evangelisation:

Mary Crowley (Catechetical Adviser) 020 7931 6090

marycrowley@rcdow.org.uk

or call:

Brenda Roberts, Vice Chancellor;

Telephone: 020 7798 9037

e-mail: brendaroberts@rcdow.org.uk.

Notes:

You will find a letter to the Catechumens and Candidates to explain the arrangements for the Rite of Election and Affirmation in the appendix.

To assist you with the process, we have provided a practical checklist of things that need to be done during the RCIA process. (See page 7)

The Rite of Election and Affirmation 2017

Westminster Cathedral at 3:00 p.m. both days:

Saturday 4th March 2017- The following deaneries will attend:

Barnet, Brent, Camden, Hackney, Harrow, Hillingdon, Kensington & Chelsea, Marylebone, Upper Thames, Watford and Westminster

Sunday 5th March 2017- These deaneries will attend:

Ealing, Enfield, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Hounslow, Islington, Lea Valley, North Kensington, St. Albans, Stevenage and Tower Hamlets

Important note: We hope that, by giving you advance notice, you will be able to include these dates in your parish and personal diaries and that you will attend the Rite of Election on the date you have been allocated.

Names and Signatures of Catechumens

Parishes are asked to present a card with **the names of Catechumens** (*those to be baptised*) only. The Catechumens should sign their names on the card at a parish or deanery Rite of Signing. This card should be brought to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election when it will be placed in the Book of the Elect.

A copy of the Rite of Signing Ceremony and the Card will be sent to parishes as soon as you have returned your forms letting us know your numbers for the Rite of Election. (See page 21: Attendance Form)

Who can come to the celebration?

- Catechumens (*those who will be fully initiated by Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil*) and their Godparents
- Candidates (*those already baptised, who are preparing for Confirmation and to receive the Eucharist*) and their sponsors
- Parish representatives (normally the catechists, the parish priest and other members of the parish)
- Relatives and friends of the catechumens and candidates.

Names and Signatures of Catechumens:

This year (as last year) only one card needs to be presented: the card with the names for the catechumens from the parish (*those to be baptised*). The card should be signed at the parish or deanery Rite of Signing and should be brought to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election to be put into the Book of the Elect.

Where can people sit?

There are no reserved seats in the Cathedral. In order to avoid disappointment or being split up you are advised to arrive at the Cathedral in plenty of time. **You will not be allowed to reserve seats for groups of people who will arrive later.** We advise that you arrive together. We shall introduce the service and the music at around 2.45pm and suggest everyone is seated by 2.30pm.

Godparents and Sponsors – should sit next to their respective Catechumens and Candidates, but should remain in their seats when the Catechumens and Candidates are called forward to the front of the Cathedral to be greeted by the bishops. Each group of Catechumens and Candidates should be led forward by their parish priest or one of the catechists.

Order of Service

An order of service will be provided on the day. It will include a step-by-step guide of what happens during the Rite and include italicised notes telling Catechumens, Candidates, Godparents and Sponsors what to do at various times during the Rite. An advance copy of the Order of Service will be given to those parish catechists attending the RCIA Seminars held across the Diocese in January and February.

The Mass for New Catholics 2017

Westminster Cathedral at 6:00 p.m. Saturday 27th May 2017

RCIA Practical Checklist

Before you begin the RCIA process:

- Have you interviewed each inquirer and filled out an initial enquiry form?
- Have you ascertained the inquirer's 'state of life'?
- Have you discerned what catechesis is desirable for the candidates?
- Have you informed the parish community that you have people enquiring about becoming Catholic?

At the end of the pre-catechumenate period:

- Have you interviewed each inquirer again to evaluate their motives and dispositions?
- Have you informed the parish community that there are people preparing to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (or the Rite of Welcome)?
- Have you registered the Catechumens in the Book of Catechumens?

Before the Rite of Election (and Affirmation):

- Have you interviewed each catechumen and candidate again to discern whether they should proceed?
- Have you ensured that the Application for Admission into Full Communion with the Catholic Church is completed and sent to the diocese? This needs to be completed before **3rd February 2017** for every Catechumen and Candidate?
- Have you celebrated a Rite of Signing in your parish or in your deanery?
- Have you sent forth your catechumens and candidates from one of the parish Masses to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election (and Affirmation)? This can be done on the day or the week before.

On the day of the Rite of Election (and Affirmation):

- Have you brought the signed signature card for the Catechumens to be inserted in the Book of the Elect?

After the Easter Vigil (or after the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation)

- Have you entered the names of the Catechumens and the Candidates into the appropriate Parish Registers?

Catechumens:

- Are they registered in the Baptismal register (where their Confirmation should also be noted)?
- Are they registered in the Confirmation register?

Candidates:

- Are they registered in a special book of those received into the Church noting the date and place they were baptised?
- Are they registered in the Confirmation register?

During the period of Mystagogia

- Have you invited your new Catholics to the Mass for New Catholics at the Cathedral? (**Saturday 27th May 2017 – 6pm at the Cathedral**)

RCIA Seminars for RCIA Parish Teams – 2017

These sessions are open to all RCIA catechists, clergy and helpers

28 th January 2017 10am-12.30pm	Mary Immaculate & St Gregory the Great, 82 Union Street, Barnet EN5 4HZ
11 th February 2017 10am-12.30pm	Vaughan House 46 Francis Street SW1P 1QN

Please book for these sessions via
website: <http://rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/training>

email: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

OR

tel: 0207 798 9152

Appendices:

Initial Enquiry Form

Confidential Information Enquiry Form for all inquirers

First Name _____ Family Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Telephone number _____ e-mail _____

If you are not Catholic:

Are you baptised? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, in which denomination? _____

(Please let us have a copy of your baptismal certificate as soon as possible.)

Do you go to your Church on an occasional weekly basis ?

Do you come to a Catholic Church on an occasional weekly basis ?

If you are Catholic:

Do you come to a Catholic Church on an occasional weekly basis ?

Have you received the following sacraments? Tick where appropriate

Baptism? Please give the name and address of the church where you were baptised:

Eucharist (Communion)

Reconciliation (Confession)

Confirmation (Church: _____ Date: _____)

Marriage (Place: _____ Date: _____)

For all candidates:

Have you friends who are Catholic? If you wish, you may give their names:

Tick any of the following boxes which are appropriate:

I am married to a Catholic

I am married; but not to a Catholic

I have been married before

I am divorced but not remarried

I have been married once

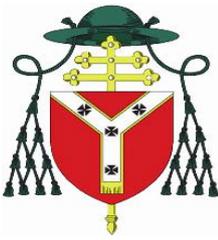
I am presently separated

I have never been married

I am divorced and remarried

Is there any other information you would like to add about yourself?

signature _____ date _____



Diocese of Westminster

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

* TICK AS APPROPRIATE

Date granted:

This form must be completed before the Rite of Election

CATECHUMEN * <input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE * <input type="checkbox"/>
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IT CAN ALSO BE USED IN THE CASE OF A CATHOLIC GOING THROUGH RCIA AND NOW SEEKING CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION * <input type="checkbox"/>

Surname *(in block capitals)*:

First Names:

Sex: **Age**: *If under 18, indicate whether parents or guardians have given their consent: 'Yes' OR 'No'*
(N.B. Petitions need only be sent to the Chancery Office for those aged 14 years and over)

Marital Status:
*(i.e. single, married, widowed, separated, divorced or *remarried) *If in a second marriage, the validity of that marriage should be investigated to make sure it does not require validation before Baptism / Reception / Confirmation*

To what Denomination, Religion or Sect has the person belonged?

Has the person been baptised?

If so, please state:

- (a) In what Church:
- (b) Date:
- (c) Is there any reasonable doubt about the validity of the baptism?

What preparation has the catechumen/candidate received?

Are you satisfied that the candidate is ready to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church?

Please provide the name of a Catholic who will sponsor and support the new member:

Signature of Priest / Deacon:

Countersignature of Parish Priest
(Required when a Deacon is making the application)

Address:

PETITION FOR ADMISSION INTO FULL COMMUNION
WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

It is my sincere and carefully considered conviction that God is asking me to find the fullness of truth in the Catholic Church.

I believe in what the Catholic Church holds and teaches, and I hope to grow in my faith and understanding; I wish to shape my life in accordance with the teaching of Jesus Christ expressed through the life of the Church.

*I have been supported by the faith, prayer and example of my
sponsor*

.....

I now of my own free will ask to be welcomed into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of initiation.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Outline of letter explaining arrangements for the Rite of Election and Affirmation at Westminster Cathedral

Dear

This letter explains the arrangements for the Rite of Election and Affirmation at the Cathedral on Saturday/Sunday.....at.....

1. Godparents, Sponsors and guests.

Your Godparent(s)/ sponsor should accompany you to the Cathedral. Other members of your family and the parish are welcome to attend. The role of the sponsor will have been explained during our RCIA preparation meetings in the parish, and they would usually have been chosen well before this event at the Cathedral.

2. Travel

We will need to be in our seats at the Cathedral by 2.30pm for the introduction to the Rite of Election. In order to be in our seats by 2.30 pm we will need to leave our Church byat the latest.

3. The Rite

The Rite lasts about an hour. It is divided into four parts: 1) Introductory Rites, 2) Liturgy of the Word, 3) Celebration of Election and Affirmation and 4) Concluding Rite. An order of service will be provided. It will contain a step-by-step guide of what happens during the Rite including helpful notes about what catechumens, candidates and sponsors should do at various times during the Rite.

Act of Recognition

The name of each parish will be called out alphabetically by the deans, deanery by deanery. Please wait for the name of our parish to be called out, and then the elect and the candidates and one of our catechists will go forward to be greeted by the Archbishop and his assistant bishops. Their greeting of you is a mark of the affection and support that the whole Church wishes to offer you.

4. Dress

The Cathedral tends to be on the cold side in February/March so please dress accordingly. There is no formal dress code for those who will be meeting the Bishops, but most people would wear smart casual clothing.

5. If you have any outstanding questions

Please contact our parish priest or RCIA Coordinator

VALID MARRIAGES				
Status of person → ↓	UNBAPTISED	BAPTISED CATHOLIC(i)	BAPTISED EASTERN NON-CATHOLIC	BAPTISED CHRISTIAN
UNBAPTISED	Public exchange of vows	Catholic service(2)		Public exchange of vows
BAPTISED CATHOLIC(i)	Catholic service2	Catholic service(2)	Catholic service(2)	Catholic service(2)
BAPTISED EASTERN NON-CATHOLIC		Catholic service(2)	Eastern non-Catholic service	Eastern non-Catholic service
BAPTISED CHRISTIAN	Public exchange of vows	Catholic service(2)	Eastern non-Catholic service	Public exchange of vows

(2) Catholic Service: Exchange of vows in a Catholic Church before a priest or deacon delegated by the parish priest, with two witnesses (Unless a dispensation has been granted by the bishop).

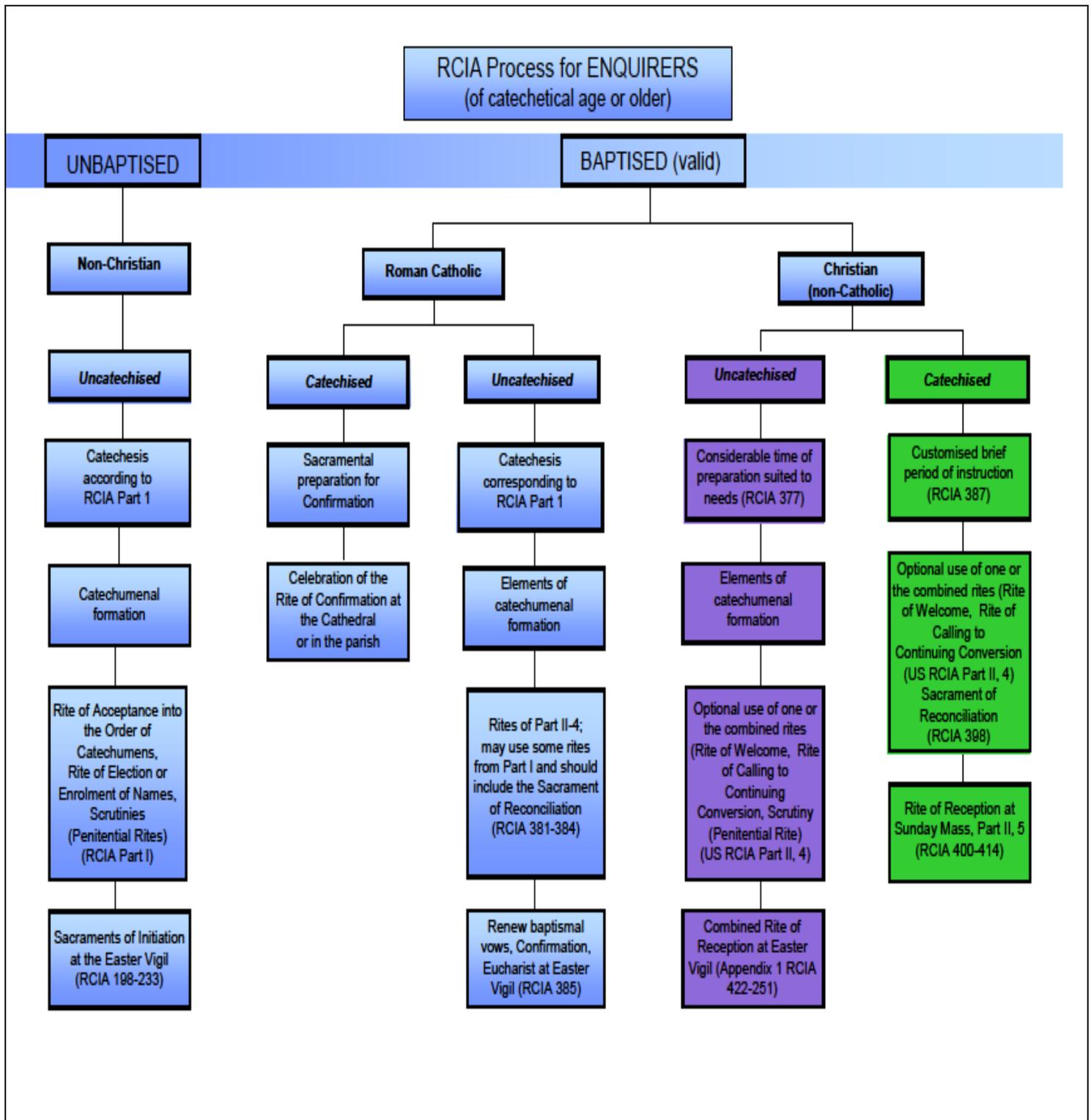
(Public Exchange of vows = legal marriage before a registrar or equivalent.)

Summary of Marriages which needs investigation or declaration of freedom is required

Status of person → ↓	UNBAPTISED CATECHUMEN	BAPTISED EASTERN NON-CATHOLIC	BAPTISED CHRISTIAN CANDIDATE	BAPTISED ROMAN CATHOLIC CANDIDATE
FORMER SPOUSE: UNBAPTISED	Public exchange of vows: Annulment needed or Pauline privilege.	Eastern non-Catholic service: Annulment needed or Petrine privilege. Outside Eastern non-Catholic service: No annulment needed.	Public exchange of vows: Annulment needed or Petrine privilege.	Catholic service: Annulment needed or Petrine privilege. Outside Catholic Church without permission: Declaration of Freedom is required
FORMER SPOUSE: BAPTISED CATHOLIC	Catholic service: Annulment needed or Petrine privilege. Outside Catholic Church without permission: Declaration of Freedom is required	Eastern non-Catholic/Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Eastern non-Catholic or Catholic service: Declaration of Freedom is required	Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Catholic Church without permission: Declaration of Freedom is required	Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Catholic Church without permission: Declaration of Freedom is required
FORMER SPOUSE: BAPTISED EASTERN NON-CATHOLIC	Outside Eastern non-Catholic service: Declaration of Freedom is required	Eastern non-Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Eastern non-Catholic service: Declaration of Freedom is required	Eastern non-Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Eastern non-Catholic service: Declaration of Freedom is required	Catholic /Eastern non-Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Catholic Church without permission: Declaration of Freedom is required
FORMER SPOUSE: BAPTISED CHRISTIAN	Public exchange of vows: Annulment needed or Petrine privilege.	Eastern non-Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Eastern non-Catholic service: Declaration of Freedom is required	Public exchange of vows: Annulment needed	Catholic service: Annulment needed Outside Catholic Church without permission: Declaration of Freedom is required

(i)Please contact the Chancery Tel: 0207 798 9037

If you are in any doubt about the status of a marriage please always contact the Chancery



It may not be necessary or always appropriate for a baptised person (*one seeking full reception into the Catholic Church or a baptised Catholic adult seeking Confirmation*) to go through the whole RCIA process and receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Baptised adults may be received into the Catholic Church at other times in the liturgical year outside of Lent.

Adults seeking Confirmation may also celebrate the Sacrament at one of the Cathedral Confirmation Celebrations or when the bishop celebrates Confirmation in the Parish.

Priests should always submit **AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** to the Chancery for all adult Candidates for reception & Confirmation.

The Mass for New Catholics 2017

- **Place, time and date**
 - Westminster Cathedral at 6:00 p.m. Saturday 27th May 2017
- **Who can come to the celebration?**
 - new Catholics, their godparents and sponsors
 - parish representatives (normally the catechists, parishioners and the parish priests)
 - relatives and friends of the new Catholics

SUGGESTED NEWSLETTER INSERTS:

At end of the pre-catechumenate period

(Generally the beginning of Advent)

- An insert for your newsletter at this time: “At the [whatever] Mass this Sunday, we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, a liturgical rite for those who wish to become catechumens – when they will publicly express their desire to follow the way of Jesus. We will also celebrate the Rite of Welcome for those Christians who want to become Roman Catholics. Please pray for [N] as we accept their intention and welcome them into our parish community.”

For the Rite of Signing

(First Sunday of Lent or the week before)

- An insert for your newsletter at this time: “At the [whatever] Mass this Sunday [or, in the deanery this week], we will celebrate the Rite of Signing with our catechumens. We will then send them forth to the Cathedral, where the Archbishop will formally acknowledge their readiness and will call them to the Sacraments of Initiation. The catechumens will now be called the Elect. Please pray for [N] as they prayerfully prepare for full communion with the Catholic Church.”

After the Easter Vigil (or when the Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated)

- An insert for your newsletter at this time: “At the Easter Vigil [or whenever], the Elect and the candidates become full members of the Body of Christ, the Church. The Elect will celebrate the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist and the candidates will celebrate the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist. Please pray for our new Catholics.”

During the Period of Mystagogy

(Before Pentecost)

- An insert for your newsletter: “The final stage of the RCIA is called Mystagogy – understanding the mysteries – and this takes place during the Easter season and beyond. Our new Catholics will ponder the experience and meaning of the sacraments and participate with the faithful in the eucharistic life of the church and its mission for justice and peace. Please pray for our new Catholics and make them feel welcome in the community.”

RITE OF ELECTION CEREMONY 2017

Our Parish RCIA Group:

Number of Catechumens: _____

Number of Candidates: _____

We have no RCIA in the parish this year *Please tick the box*

Please return this form even if you do not have the RCIA running this year.

Will your group be attending the Rite of Election Ceremony in Westminster Cathedral?

Yes. **No.**

Please tick the relevant box

Who is your lead RCIA Catechist/Contact Person:

Name:

Email:

Tel:

PLEASE GIVE THE FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR PARISH:

(Block capitals please)

NAME OF PARISH:

ADDRESS:

DEANERY:

Please return the required information to:

Tel: 020 7798 9152 Email: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

**Warren Brown
Agency for Evangelisation
Vaughan House
46 Francis Street
London
SW1P 1QN**

Where can I go for further assistance?

Your Catechetical Advisers

Network of catechists/parishes/deaneries

Diocesan website: www.rcdow.org.uk

- RCIA Network (England & Wales): www.RCIA.org.uk
- Team RCIA: www.teamrcia.com
- Association for Catechumenal Ministry www.acmrcia.org



Formation for Parish Teams

While this document sets out to be a useful summary guide to the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* it is not meant to replace suitable formation and training which clergy and catechists should undertake. The Diocesan Catechetical Team will arrange for this formation on request at deanery or Diocesan level. It is essential that either a parish group beginning RCIA after a period without it, or any new people invited to join an existing group as catechists take advantage of the formation available. Each year there will be information publicised to the parishes about formation opportunities generally available in the Diocese.

Contact the Agency for Evangelisation, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN

Tel: 020 7798 9152 website: www.rcdow.org.uk

For specific advice and training for the RCIA please contact

Mary Crowley (Catechetical Adviser) 020 7931 6090 marycrowley@rcdow.org.uk

GUIDE TO THE RCIA

(This material was originally prepared by the Diocese of Leeds. It has been adapted for use in the Diocese of Westminster)



What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults?

RCIA is the process, a period of progressive conversion and including a variety of particular ceremonies, which leads adults to Christian baptism and into full Communion with the Catholic Church. The Church recognises four stages in the process of the RCIA:

1. Enquiry and Evangelisation

This initial stage is a time when a person approaches the Church community with their interest in Christ, and with their questions about faith and Christian life. In return they are welcomed by the parish community and hear about the Gospel of Christ as a response to their search. This stage is also known as the Pre-Catechumenate. Those who take part in it may be known as “enquirers”.

2. The Catechumenate

The “Catechumenate” is a term used since the early centuries of the Church for the period of time during which a person prepared for Christian baptism. It is a kind of “apprenticeship in the faith”, a period of formation, deepening the response to the Gospel of Christ, growing in commitment and faith, and beginning to be initiated into the life of the Christian community. To take part in this a person is formally enrolled as a “catechumen”.

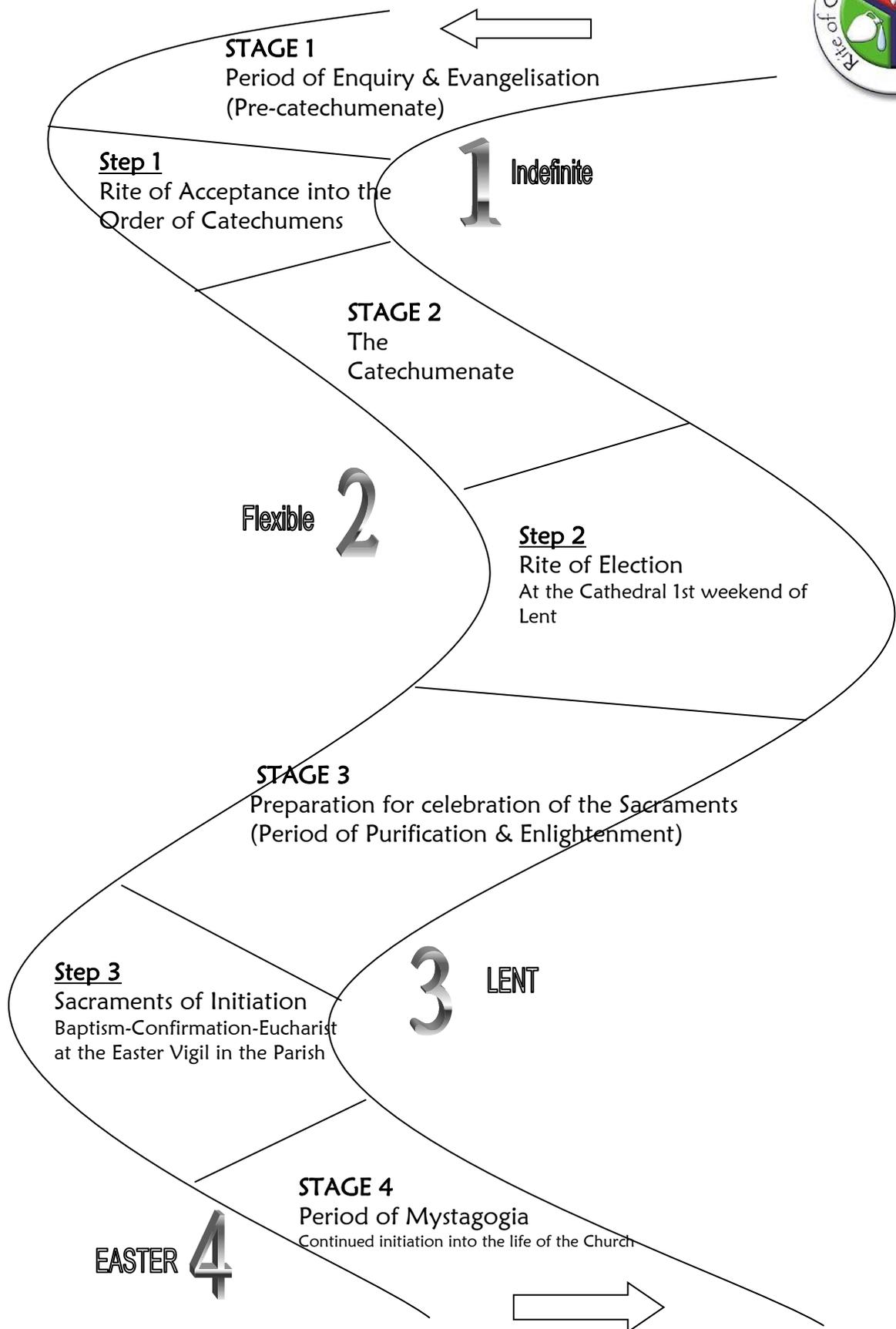
3. Preparation to receive the Sacraments

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - are usually received at the Easter Vigil. The Church has long used the season of Lent as a time during which those who seek baptism are prepared more intensely for it. This now takes place at the Rite of Election on the first weekend of Lent. The six weeks of Lent are a time of concentrated spiritual preparation for initiation at Easter.

4. Period of instruction after Baptism or Reception

After being baptised, confirmed, and receiving the Eucharist with the community, the new Christians continue their formation with further instruction about the sacraments, about the Church and about Christian witness. This stage is named *Mystagogia* – essentially, the deepening of the mysteries.

THE JOURNEY IN FAITH





Who is the RCIA for?

This process of initiation in four stages is the way in which the Church brings a person who is not baptised to faith and membership of the Church. It is sometimes called *The Baptismal Catechumenate*.

It can be adapted to meet the needs of a person baptised as a Catholic when a child, but who then left without any further involvement or teaching. It can support them as they are helped to learn about Catholic life, receive the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist, and come to share in the life of the Church.

It is also used to provide the pattern followed by someone baptised in another Christian denomination who now wishes to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

A parish may well find that its RCIA group may include people from all these circumstances. They can prepare fruitfully together, provided the difference between someone already baptised and someone coming to Christian faith for the first time, is properly understood and respected at appropriate points.

Finally, the RCIA is recognised by the Church as the model for all Christian catechesis, “the exemplar and rule for all Christian Initiation”. (RCIA, section 5) Its structure, insights and dynamic have application to all Christian formation and development.

In the Parish

Preparation takes place in the parish community. It is very important that the processes of the RCIA are seen to be one of the ways that the parish as a whole is constantly involved in the mission of the Church. The community of the Church, the body of Christ, is the place where faith is nurtured and new Christians are formed.

The RCIA includes meetings for prayer, discussion and learning, usually on a weekly basis. It must also allow for a gradual initiation into the life and worship of the community, with the pace set by the needs of those seeking to learn the ways of faith. The move from one stage to another is marked by special liturgies. Initiation into the Church is finally celebrated with the whole parish in the great ceremonies of Easter and then continues afterwards. All these elements together form the RCIA.

Individual parishes will have their own needs as to when to begin the RCIA process and how long it should last. In general, parishes involved have found that this is between six months and two years. The Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated at the Easter Vigil. This needs to be considered when planning the timetable, as Easter is a moveable feast.

In later sections, there are suggestions on content and approach.

What are the benefits of the RCIA?

RCIA is an important way to fulfil the duty we have as Catholics to be witnesses of Christ to others by walking alongside them on their journey of faith. Parishes in the diocese who participate in RCIA have found the experience a positive one, in the following ways:

New people are welcomed as disciples of Christ into the Catholic Church

They bring new life, gifts and skills. This encourages constant renewal for the whole community

Relationships and friendships are built which last and which help to create community/communion



Communication of the RCIA process and the participants is shared with the whole community. The community shares in the celebration of the Rites

Catechists/leaders benefit from the experience. Everyone receives and is nourished. Catechists' own faith and learning is developed. It is a three-way experience, enriching the faith of the catechists, those who come to the meetings, both enquirers and parishioners, and indeed the whole of the parish community

It is a great gift for the parish community to see people being received into the Church through Lent and Easter

The Role of the Parish

All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. (1Corinthians 12:27)

All Catholics by virtue of their baptism are called to evangelise

The RCIA process belongs to the whole of the parish and members of the community can contribute in many different ways.

The RCIA belongs to the whole parish in as much as:

- The RCIA gives an inspiring example of Christian faith and community
- The liturgy is celebrated with commitment and significance
- The Parish sustains the process with prayer
- It welcomes and supports all involved at every stage

Individually, parishioners help by:

- welcoming newcomers/visitors and offering hospitality
- being open with their own faith, promoting interest in the Catholic faith and encouraging those who may be drawn to know more
- being aware of relatives/friends/colleagues who may have an interest in learning more about the Catholic faith and inviting them to participate in the RCIA/Journey in Faith
- praying that people will come along to the meetings and for those who are leading and participating in the sessions.

The assembly has a role to play:

- by giving evidence of the spirit of the Christian community, by welcoming them into their homes, into personal conversation and into community gatherings
- by seeking to be present whenever possible at the celebrations belonging to the period of the catechumenate and by taking an active part in the responses, prayers, singing and acclamations
- by giving honest and carefully considered testimony about the catechumens on the day of election
- by taking part in the Masses for neophytes (the newly baptised), i.e., the Sunday Masses of the Easter season; and by welcoming the neophytes with open arms in charity and by helping them to feel more at home in the community of the baptised.

The RCIA also calls for a range of particular ministries to be exercised within the parish.

The parish priest aims to gather a team to support the process:

- Catechists
- Sponsors and godparents
- Prayer partners
- Welcomers and hospitality providers



The Ministries for the RCIA

The seeds that fell in good soil stand for those who hear the message

and retain it in a good and obedient heart, and they persist until they bear fruit. (Luke 8:15)

The Parish Priest

As pastoral and spiritual leader of the community, the parish priest has the role of exercising overall care for the initiation of new members into the community. He will work to ensure the whole community is alert to this aspect of parish life, and make sure that by prayer and support, and in the liturgical celebrations, the whole parish is involved.

He will gather a team of parishioners to guide the RCIA in the parish, meet them regularly for support and planning, and ensure that they have the formation for the work being asked of them.

The parish priest will get to know the catechumens and candidates personally. This will be done in a variety of ways but, especially by:

- meeting them before they begin the RCIA process to ensure (with great sensitivity) to know whether their personal circumstances present particular difficulties for their full participation in the life of the Church. Most often this will arise because of previous marriages and relationship issues. The priest must address these issues in trust and confidence with the enquirers.
- meeting them again before they sign the application for admission into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church
- visiting them and their families in their own homes and listening to their stories

It will be his responsibility in a special way to keep to the forefront the fact that it is the work of the Holy Spirit in each person's life that is leading him or her to membership of the Church. He will know that the proclamation of Christ and his Gospel is the heart of the RCIA process. His personal example of faith in and love of Christ will be of great importance.

The parish priest must remember to:

- communicate to the assembly the importance of their participation and to convince them that their enthusiastic participation is an act of hospitality and welcome
- use the symbols of initiation well (i.e., by signing the cross on all the senses with gestures that are visible to all, by pouring oil in abundance, by laying hands firmly yet gently)
- encourage parishioners to ask their unchurched friends and relatives to come to worship with them, and even to extend an invitation to them to explore membership through the parish's catechumenal process
- attend to the ways that the members of the catechumenal team are being called to a deeper conversion themselves and make sure he is available to support and direct them as well.

Catechists



Catechists are members of the community commissioned for the ministry of helping others grow in faith and commitment to Christ. They help the catechumens and candidates to prepare for the sacraments of initiation. There should be more than one catechist if possible in a parish for the RCIA process. This is because it is the Church as a community that transmits the Gospel. It also provides support and flexibility.

The catechists carry out their ministry by:

- helping the catechumens and candidates to receive the Gospel of Christ and to respond to it with faith
- encouraging them to pray
- sharing with them the teachings of the Church
- offering them support in the name of the parish
- strengthening their sense of belonging to the parish community
- being a friend to the candidates
- sharing their own faith, commitment and enthusiasm
- listening and being aware of problems

Catechists can be from any background and age group. What is important is that they love Christ and wish to share their faith. Catechists must be:

- committed, practising Catholics
- involved in the parish
- able to share their own experience of faith
- prepared to make a commitment to the candidates
- willing to undertake formation for this ministry

On a practical level, catechists will help to make God's Word understandable to others by:

- becoming more aware of their own experiences of God through the events of their life
- telling the catechumens and candidates what they love about the Catholic Church
- sharing their own story and by talking about how the Catholic faith has been passed on to them

Sponsors and Godparents

The ministry of sponsor is one of companionship, encouragement and witness. A sponsor should be a member of the parish community, at least sixteen years of age, confirmed as a Catholic, and have received the Eucharist. A parent or spouse of the person being baptised may not act as sponsor. The non-baptised enquirer should have a sponsor, who is not the spouse or future spouse, by the time of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumens and baptised enquirers should have a sponsor by the time of the Rite of Welcoming the Candidates. The enquirer and RCIA team should make the choice of sponsor together. Sponsors carry out their ministry by:

- serving as a source of information about the Catholic Church
- listening to the candidate's reflections, doubts and questions
- sharing their own faith experience
- participating in sessions along with the candidates
- standing as witness to the progress of the candidate during the celebration of the liturgical rites.

The sponsor may act as godparent from the Rite of Election onwards or a different person may be chosen as godparent for the catechumen. The ministry of godparent is one of lifetime support of growth in the Christian life. Godparents carry out their ministry by:



- showing the candidates how to practise the Gospel in personal and social life
- sustaining the candidates in moments of hesitancy and anxiety
- bearing witness
- guiding the candidates in their baptismal life.

Sponsors and godparents might be a bridge for their catechumen or candidate by:

- inviting the catechumen or candidate to sit with them during the liturgy
- introducing their family and friends to the catechumen or candidate
- inviting them home for a meal
- getting together at some time once a week
- going through the parish bulletin to explain what the various activities listed are about
- introducing the catechumen or candidate to some of the people whose names are in the bulletin
- visiting the cathedral or other places of interest in the diocese
- sharing childhood memories of growing up Catholic and share some of the ways their family participated in the traditions of the Church
- listening to what the catechumen or candidate is saying and what s/he is *not* saying
- listening confidentially, without judging the catechumen or candidate

Welcomers

The essence of the ministry of welcome is reaching out to those who are seeking Christ and can involve:

- engaging enquirers/candidates in personal conversation
- welcoming people into their homes
- including candidates in community gatherings

At the RCIA sessions it is important to have one or two welcomers who can greet people on arrival and help them to feel comfortable. Ideally the welcomers should not be the catechists. At some point in the evening light refreshments can be provided.

Prayer Partners

The candidates can be linked to one or more members of the community and both partners can agree to pray for one another during the time of the Catechumenate and preparation and beyond. This can be a significant ministry for those who are sick or housebound.

How to plan for the RCIA in your Parish



The following is a summary checklist of what needs to be included in the parish RCIA:

Preparing Ourselves

- Whole parish prays about the RCIA
- Preaching renews the community's sense of mission in proclaiming the Gospel
- Parish Priest gathers a team/Deanery team to include publicity and advertising, welcomers and hospitality and catechists
- Training and formation for team

Getting Started

Planning of the meetings and the whole process

Advertising and publicity:

- References to RCIA/Journey in Faith can be included in many parish and school communications e.g. Newsletter, summer fayre programme, Advent & Christmas, Lent & Easter events, local press, general notices

A Network of Prayer set up (ministry for the sick and housebound)

Enquirers are invited to come, by friends, parishioners, and the parish priest.

RCIA parish leaflet is available

The whole parish community is kept informed

The Parish Priest interviews each candidate before the RCIA process starts to make sure that the candidate is able and free to begin the process

How to shape the meetings

The RCIA team, clergy and catechists, needs to decide:

- the most appropriate time for the sessions to take place.
- how long the sessions will be.
- how long the process is expected to take (with great flexibility).
- the venue.

The room should be carefully prepared, warm, comfortable and attractive, and the right size for the group.

At the first session, it is important to make people welcome.

Begin with a simple prayer by one of the team. (Be careful not to assume too much or put pressure on people. As time goes on, longer prayer, which invites participation, can be added when people are ready for it.)

It is important to let people get to know each other (again without pressure), and there are different ways of doing this.



Give people a clear idea of how the meeting will unfold. Always finish at the agreed time.

Light refreshments should be available – (but not necessarily at the start of the meeting).

What is important for good RCIA?

Parishes in the diocese which have experience of the RCIA have identified the following points:

- It is important to make people feel welcome and at ease.
- Plan the layout of the room.
- Meet people where they are.
- Be inclusive and be sensitive to individual needs and circumstances.
- Be flexible. You may have planned a session but circumstances may require you to adapt.
- Involve other people in the parish as much as possible. There is a danger that RCIA becomes a minority interest but catechists are acting on behalf of the parish community and so wider participation is important.
- Think about the words you use. We take “church language” for granted but it may not make much sense to newcomers.
- Encourage questions but don’t worry if you don’t know the answer, you can always promise to find out.
- Encourage participation and open discussion. However, be equally sensitive that some people, particularly at the beginning, may be uncomfortable talking about personal experiences and feelings. If they prefer to listen, don’t make them feel pressurised to talk.
- Make time for prayer, particularly silent prayer and meditation on the scriptures.
- Encourage personal prayer.
- The style of the sessions should not be like a class; the RCIA is about adult learning and adult issues provoked from people’s continuing reflection. One way of doing this is by using lectionary-based catechesis.

A Note on Content

Deciding what to include as the content of the meetings, which form a large part of the RCIA, is a considerable challenge to the parish team. It is vital that as they do this they always keep the basic principles in mind.

The journey of faith of each person includes several different elements forming an integrated whole.

They are:

- Personal faith - as a response to the Gospel of Christ.
- Worship of God in the Liturgy.
- Participation in the life of the Christian community, spiritually and socially.
- Knowledge of the beliefs and teachings of the Church.
- Being part of the Mission of Christ’s people to the world around us.

The initiation of new members into the Church must take account of all these and include them, appropriately, in the process. The meetings should aim to include three elements:



- Hearing the Word of God and the teaching of the Church.
- the input of information about the faith of the Church.
- a spiritual element of prayer and listening to scripture and connection it with life and experience.

These need not all be in the same proportions at every meeting. While it is necessary to share experience of faith and life among those present, it is essential that the meetings also present to the enquirers the beliefs and teachings of the Church, in a way which relates them to life, and introduces the enquirers to the scriptures. A good balance of experience, knowledge and prayer is the aim.

At the same time the RCIA must not be thought of as the meetings alone. It is essential the other dimensions of worship, of parish life, and of mission, be experienced as well.

Everyone needs to remain aware that God is working in the hearts and lives of everyone through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Period of Post-Baptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy



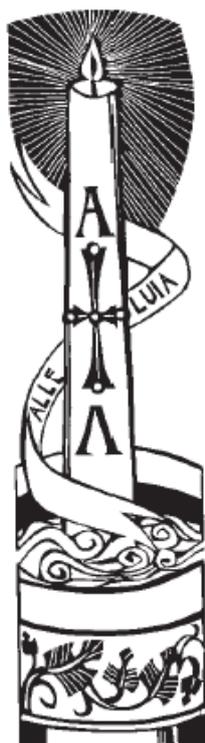
The fourth stage of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sometimes fails to have the time and attention it needs. The Easter ceremonies and reception of the sacraments are so important and powerful that it is natural for them to be experienced as the goal achieved. But for all us the journey continues, and formation in faith and the life of the Christian continues all our lives. It is important that the new members of the community are not simply left to their own devices when Easter is over. They still have much to learn, and still need to be helped to feel part of the community.

It can also be of great help to realise that they do not have to learn absolutely everything about Catholicism and how we find help to live as Catholics before they are received at Easter. This relieves the mistaken pressure of feeling that everything must be crammed into the meetings during the Catechumenate.

There are suggestions elsewhere for the kind of issues that might be dealt with during this time. It may be especially useful to invite members of parish and wider societies and groups to explain them to the new members. Each parish will have its own ideas based on its particular interests and situation.

At a Diocesan level, there is usually a celebration with the Bishop around Pentecost. This is announced at the Rite of Election and information is included in the individual letters of welcome which the Bishop sends to each person.

The new members of the community will be particularly enthusiastic and committed to the parish. It is common experience to find that they will have a marvellous contribution to make to the parish in the years ahead. At the same time the Church traditionally has allowed them time to mature and settle down as Catholics before inviting them into the formal ministries of reader or extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. Too much should not be asked of them too soon.



A Summary of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Stage One: Enquiry and Evangelisation				
Those Interested in the faith are known as Enquirers				
Individual	Catechists	Parish	Themes	Suggestions for Resources
A person becomes interested in the Gospel story, in faith, and in the Catholic Church, and seeks answers to questions about these and about their own lives	<p>The Catechists and their helpers meet with those interested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to listen to their questions and experiences, ▪ to discuss with them, from their own experience, how Jesus Christ and his Gospel may be the response to their search, ▪ and to begin to establish trust and friendship ▪ To explore with them whether they wish to go further 	<p>The parish community supports this stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ by prayer, ▪ by helping people come to the meetings, ▪ by being welcoming and hospitable to all 	<p>Life, Faith, Discipleship My Story Enquirers Catechists</p> <p>The Story of Jesus</p> <p>The Story of the Disciples</p>	<p><i>Abraham, Genesis 15, 18</i> <i>Call of Disciples in John 1, 35-51</i></p> <p><i>Birth of Jesus, His Baptism and Galilean Ministry</i> <i>Passion and Crucifixion</i></p> <p><i>Emmaus, Jn 20, 19-29</i> <i>Acts of the Apostles</i></p>
Step One: Enrolment of those not baptised as Catechumens – Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens RCIA 41 ff				

A Summary of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Stage Two: The Catechumenate				
Individual	Catechists	Parish	Themes	Suggestions for Resources
<p>The individual learns more about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and how the community of faith, the Church, is formed by this, and seeks to live by this.</p> <p>It is a time for the initial attraction to Christ to be deepened and become a personal faith and commitment</p>	<p>The catechists act as spiritual friends and guides to the candidates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ on their journey through a period of formation, an apprenticeship, in the Christian life. ▪ Sharing with them, In a structured way, the revelation of God in Jesus through the living experience of the Church 	<p>The parish community supports this stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ by prayer ▪ by helping people come to the meetings ▪ by welcoming the candidates, as appropriate, into worship and the life of the parish 	<p>The Gospel of the Kingdom</p> <p>The Gospel of the Christ</p> <p>The Faith of the Church (Apostles Creed)</p> <p>The Sacraments of Life</p> <p>Living as a Christian</p> <p>Christian Prayer</p>	<p><i>Matt 5 to 7; 11 to 13</i></p> <p><i>Mark 8, 27-38</i></p> <p><i>Mark 10, 32-52</i></p> <p><i>Acts 2</i></p> <p><i>Refer to the Catechism of the Church, and choose Scripture</i></p> <p><i>CCC I</i></p> <p><i>CCC II</i></p> <p><i>CCC III</i></p> <p><i>CCC IV</i></p>
Step Two: The Rite of Election as Candidates for Initiation RCIA 105 ff				

A Summary of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Stage Three: Preparing for Easter				
A time of purification and enlightenment within the community				
Individual	Catechists	Parish	Themes	Suggestions for Resources
Spiritual preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The catechists help the candidates discern whether they are ready to ask for full initiation into the Catholic Church. ▪ They share with them the summary profession of faith, the Creed, and the model of all Christian prayer, the Our Father. 	<p>As this takes place during Lent the whole parish is involved in a time of spiritual renewal and preparation for Easter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The sponsors prepare for their role, and give special support to the candidates ▪ The community supports the catechumens in their preparation and is inspired by them for its own preparation for Easter 	<p>Conversion, Forgiveness, Faith</p> <p>The Our Father</p> <p>The Apostles Creed</p> <p>Holy Week and The Liturgies of Easter</p>	<p><i>The Samaritan Woman <u>John 4</u></i></p> <p><i>A Man Born Blind</i></p> <p><i><u>John 9</u></i></p> <p><i>The Raising of Lazarus <u>John 11</u></i></p> <p><i>Refer to the Rite itself for the liturgies</i></p>
Step Three: Celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation RCIA 280 ff				

A Summary of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Stage Four: The Time after Easter – Period of Mystagogy RCIA 234 ff				
Individual	Catechists	Parish	Themes	Suggestions for Resources
<p>The Individual begins their life as a full member of the Catholic Church.</p> <p>They continue meeting in order to strengthen their commitment and learn more detail about the beliefs, practices, and responsibilities of the community of Christ’s disciples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The catechists and sponsors continue to meet with the new members of the Church. ▪ They share with them more detailed knowledge of the faith and sacraments, to deepen and extend their knowledge, understanding and commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community goes out of its way to involve the new members in the life of the parish and help them experience in practice the life of a Christian community, which they have been called to. ▪ The Bishop celebrates the Eucharist with new members at Pentecost 	<p>Follow up areas which the group asks for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Church’s Year. ▪ More on the Sacraments. ▪ More on the Church: <p>Its history; Its structures; religious orders; Ecumenism Other faiths Option for the Poor Organisations Movements</p>	<p>Invite people from different organisations to meet the group and share something of their work and its inspiration</p>
Step Four: Life as a Catholic Christian				

RCIA Glossary of Terms

Advent

The beginning of season the new Liturgical Year. Four weeks before Christmas that focuses on a twofold theme: preparing for the Second Coming of Christ and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Acceptance into the Catechumenate may take place on the First Sunday of Advent.

Adult

An adult of legal age, or a child who has attained the use of reason and is of catechetical age. Catechetical age is defined as “in or around 7 years of age” (Canon 97:2)

Candidate (Inquirer)

- 1) Any person in the period of the pre-Catechumenate.
- 2) One who is baptised as a Catholic but did not receive further catechetical formation, nor the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.
- 3) One who is already baptised in another Christian faith and has not received a suitable catechesis and who now is preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. At the time of full reception, he or she will make a profession of faith, be confirmed, and receive the Eucharist.

Catechumen

An unbaptised adult who has been accepted in to the Order of Catechumens through the Rite of Acceptance.

Catechumenate

- 1) The entire initiation process is sometimes called the Catechumenal process, in reference to “one in instruction” Galatians 6.
- 2) The second period of the Catechumenal Process in which, after the Rite of Acceptance, Catechumens enter into an extended period of time and are given a suitable pastoral formation and guidance, aimed at training them in the Christian life.

Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation

The Third step in the Catechumenal process is the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). Through this final step the elect, receiving pardon for their sins, are admitted into the people of God...lead by the Holy Spirit...and share in the Eucharistic sacrifice. This most normally coincides, by ancient tradition, with the Easter Vigil.

Children

There is a form of the RCIA which is adapted for children. That is, those children not baptised as infants, who have attained the use of reason and are of catechetical age. The age of reason is defined by Canon Law as in or around the age of 7 (CIC 97:2).

Cycle A, B, C

The three year cycle of liturgical readings: A Cycle – Gospel of Matthew; B Cycle – Gospel of Mark; C Cycle - Gospel of Luke. All three cycles incorporate the Gospel of John.

Easter Season

A period of seven weeks beginning with Easter Sunday and ending with the feast of Pentecost. An expected time of Post-Baptismal Catechesis/Mystagogy.

Elect

The name given to Catechumens who after completing an apprenticeship in the Christian life, celebrate the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent signifying their being chosen for initiation at the Easter celebration.

Evangelisation

- 1) "The carrying forth of the Good News to every sector of the human race" (EN 18)
- 2) The life long process of conversion to Jesus Christ (GDC 47)
- 3) The first period of Evangelisation and Pre-Catechumenate, which seeks to introduce Candidates to Christ, by: a) faithfully and constantly proclaiming the living God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent for the salvation of all, b) a suitable explanation of the Gospel, c) an opportunity for the beginnings of faith.

Godparents

Those who are selected by the Catechumen to accompany them on the day of election, at the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, and during the period of mystagogy. They must be fully initiated members of the Catholic faith, and should be able to perform the responsibilities as outlined in the Rite.

Inquirers

Those who participate in the pre-Catechumenate. They are "inquiring" into Christianity in the Catholic Tradition.

Lectionary

The book used in liturgical celebrations that contains all the scripture readings of the Liturgical Year.

Lent

A six week period extending from Ash Wednesday to sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a retreat time in preparation for the Easter Triduum. For the "Elect" who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil, and the Candidates who are preparing to receive full initiation during the Easter Season, this season correlates with the period of Purification & Enlightenment.

Liturgical Year

The seasons and cycles of the Christian year that follows the life of Christ. It is the instrument and means for leading God's people along the way to the Lord. The readings introduce and invite us into the Paschal Mystery.

Minor Rites

Rites during the Period of the Catechumenate which include exorcisms, blessings, and anointings.

Mystagogy / PostBaptismal Catechesis

The final period of the Catechumenal process which, the newly baptised, "neophytes", and the newly initiated grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist, and doing works of Charity. The immediate period of mystagogy is from Easter to Pentecost; however it is recommended to extend the period of mystagogy for one year.

Neophyte

One who is initiated at the Easter Vigil. The term comes from the Greek word meaning newly planted.

Ninety Days

Occasionally used to mean the combination of the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, and the Period of Mystagogy which corresponds with Lent (40 days) and the Easter Season (50 days).

Ordo Initiationis Christianae Adultorum

Latin term for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is the official collection of Rites of the Roman Catholic Church for initiation of adults (including children of catechetical age), and the reception of the baptised Candidates, called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in the United Kingdom.

Ordinary Time

The cycle within the Liturgical Year that is outside the liturgical seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent & Easter). The readings during this time follow the ministry of Jesus; His teachings and miracles. This time provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of God's gift to us in Christ, our attitudes, our prayer life, and our service to others.

Pre-Catechumenate & Evangelisation

The first period of the Catechumenal process is evangelisation, which seeks to introduce Candidates to Christ, by: a) faithfully and constantly proclaiming the living God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent for the salvation of all, b) a suitable explanation of the Gospel, c) an opportunity for the beginnings of faith.

Presentation of Creed / Presentation of Our Father

During the period of purification and enlightenment, the elect are presented with the Creed and the Lord's Prayer through special Rites that usually coincide with the Scrutinies.

Purification and Enlightenment

The third period of the Catechumenal process, normally coinciding with Lent, followed by the Rite of Election, which seeks to introduce the Elect, and Candidates to a period of intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction. It is the final period of preparation before reception of the Sacraments of Initiation.

RCIA

Acronym for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

English title of Ordo initiationis christianae adultorum (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) The latest English translation edition was published in 1987.

Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

The First Step in the Catechumenal process, in which the unbaptised are officially accepted into the Order of Catechumens. It is of the utmost importance that assembling publicly for the first time, the Candidates who have completed the period of the Pre-Catechumenate declare their intention to the Church and the Church in turn accepts them.

Rite of Welcome

Optional rite welcoming those Candidates who were previously baptised but uncatechised to begin their preparation. The Church acknowledges that such Candidates are already part of the community by Baptism, and now surrounds them with special care and support. A combined Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the Rite of Welcoming baptised but previously uncatechised adults is provided for in the RCIA, however care must be taken to maintain distinction between the Catechumens and the baptised Candidates.

Rite of Sending

An optional rite by which the parish community sends the Catechumens to the Rite of Election, and Candidates for recognition by the Bishop, and Call to Continuing Conversion.

Rite of Election

The Second Step in the Catechumenal process. Presided over by the Bishop, the rite inaugurates the completion of the Period of the Catechumenate and the final period of preparation before initiation at the next Easter Vigil.

Call to Continuing Conversion

An optional rite for Candidates who have completed an extended period of preparation and now seek to be received into, or fully initiated into the Church at Easter.

Rite of Recognition

The rite by which the local Bishop receives Candidates for recognition & calls them to continuing conversion. Celebrated in the Diocese at the same time as the Rite of Election.

Rite of Scrutiny

Three special Rites for the Elect during the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. Solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, these are Rites for self-searching and repentance and above all have a spiritual purpose. Presentations of the Creed and Lords prayer may coincide with the scrutinies.

Rite, Penitential

Celebration for Candidates, similar to the scrutinies.

Sponsor

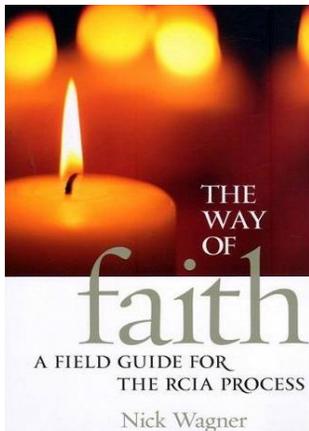
- 1) The term used to refer to the person who accompanies any Candidate seeking admission as a Catechumen. They assist the Candidates, stand as witness to their moral character and present them at the Rite of Acceptance. They may also be chosen as a Godparent by the Catechumen.
- 2) The term for a fully initiated Catholic who will journey with a Candidate (baptised but previously uncatechised adult) through their preparation and be present at their full initiation into the Church.

Sunday

The first day in the Christian liturgical week, the day of Christ' resurrection, the original feast day, the heart of the calendar, the basis and nucleus of the Liturgical Year.

The Triduum

The three days of the celebration of Easter this begins with sundown on Holy Thursday evening and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday evening. It includes the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.



The Way of Faith: A Field Guide to the RCIA Process, Nick Wagner

“Nick Wagner's guide to the catechumenate is hands-down the most engaging, readable and bracing book available on this subject. It is written for Catholics who work with The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in a parish setting, and is accessible to volunteers as well as professionals in ministry. There is plenty of literature about the RCIA on the market today, from academic works to how-to manuals, from multi-volume resource books to small brochures and handouts. The Way of Faith stands out among all the current literature for two reasons.

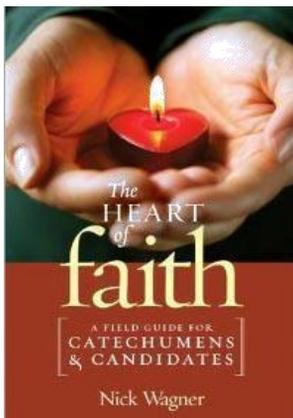
First, as an overview of the process The Way of Faith compares favourably with Thom Morris's classic, *The RCIA: Transforming the Church*. It is detailed, complete, practical and correct with respect to the vision. This isn't easy. The RCIA is complex, and it's much easier to pretend it conforms to something we already know well, like classroom instruction, than to represent it as it really is: an experience of conversion in community that has the liturgy at its heart. Wagner gets it right.

Second, because of Wagner's crisp writing style and contemporary examples, the book never comes across as dry or pedantic. He speaks to his readers as a coach, with humour and fresh ways of describing things, inciting them to do this work creatively in their own setting. The book includes specific tools, such as checklists, rehearsal plans, and outlines for catechetical sessions. But that's not the best thing about it. The best thing about this book is the clear, compelling conviction that underlies the whole work: "Conversion to Christ is an awesome change. It is the most awesome change we will ever experience." (p. 11). Initiation as Wagner describes it is a marvellous work and a great adventure.

The Way of Faith lives up to its subtitle: "A Field Guide for the RCIA Process." After reading this book, one wants nothing better than to get out into the field and do it. Readers of the TeamRCIA.com website will find that this book complements the online resources produced by Wagner and others. I would recommend this book for anyone serving on an RCIA team or contemplating starting one. It well deserves the first place award it received in 2009 from the Catholic Press Association for books in pastoral ministry."

— A review by Rita Ferrone, Mount Vernon, NY

Published by Twenty-Third Publications, New London, CT, 2008; Price: £13.95



The Heart of Faith: A Field Guide for Catechumens and Candidates, Nick Wagner

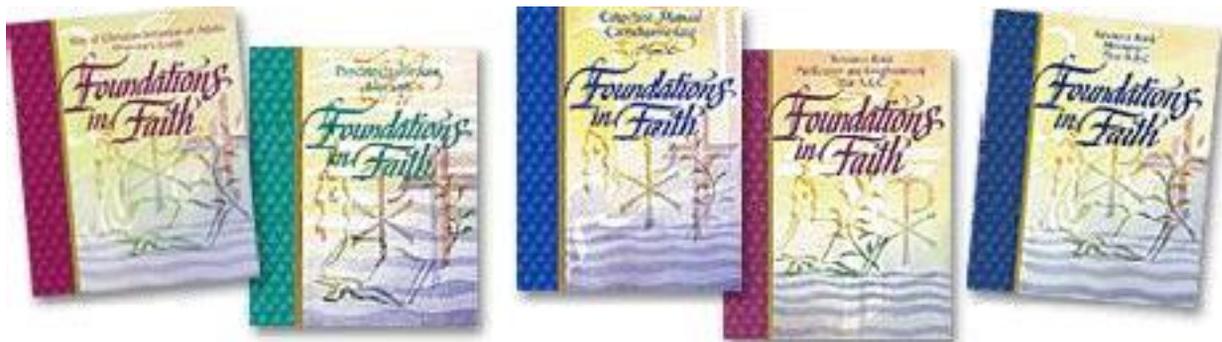
“Becoming Catholic is a process of falling in love. The person we're falling in love with, over and over again, more and more deeply, is Jesus Christ. To become Catholic, you have to open your heart to the love Jesus has for you and return that love as best you can.” So begins *The Heart of Faith*, where catechumens and candidates quickly learn that Jesus Christ will be their focus throughout their journey through the catechumenate. They will learn what they need to do to become Catholic too, of course, as they discern, pray, worship, break open the Word, and try to live their daily lives as followers of Christ.

This book guides catechumens and candidates through the entire process of preparing for baptism, the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, keeping Lent, celebrating the Triduum, baptism (or acceptance) at the Easter Vigil, and life after baptism. This is a warm and wonderful companion for parish catechumens and candidates, one they will value and treasure long after they become Catholics

Published by Twenty-third Publications, New London, CT, 2006; Price £10.50

Foundations in Faith Complete Set of RCIA Resources

Bob Duggan, Carol Gura, et al



Director's Guide & Leader's Guides: Precatechumenate, Catechumenate (Years A, B & C), Purification & Enlightenment and Mystagogy

In this complete series of resources for RCIA you have all you need to make your community's experience of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults deeply transformative, not only for the catechumens and candidates, but for all in the community. Practical tools to implement the rite are included in the Director's Guide, and each period of the rite has a corresponding manual for parish leaders: Precatechumenate, Catechumenate (Years A, B, and C), Purification and Enlightenment, and Mystagogy

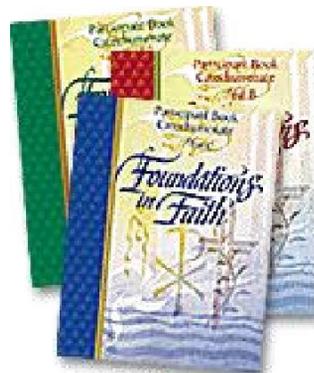
Participant books (Years A, B, and C)

help participants and team members as they break open the Word of God, share faith, learn Catholic doctrine and traditions, and experience prayer together.

The Remembrance Book is a perfect keepsake gift for candidates and catechumens.

The self-assessment tool assists parish teams, helping to improve the quality of implementation of the rite.

Celebrating the Rites: A Practical Guide serves directors, liturgical ministers, and pastors--who strive to meet the parish needs to prepare, celebrate, and reflect on the meaning of the rituals.



"This complete series of RCIA resources is all you need to make your community's experience of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults deeply transformative – not only for the catechumens and candidates – but for all in the community. Practical tools to implement the rite are included in the Director's Guide, and each period of the rite has a corresponding manual for parish leaders: Precatechumenate, Catechumenate (Years A, B and C), Purification and Enlightenment and Mystagogy,"

--Diocesan Review Board, Buffalo, NY Diocese



Published by Resources for Christian Living, Allen, Texas, 1998
Costs: Director's and Leader's Guides: Price: £19.95
Participant's books: Price: £2.95; Remembrance book: Price: £2.95

Word & Worship Workbook, Years A, B & C

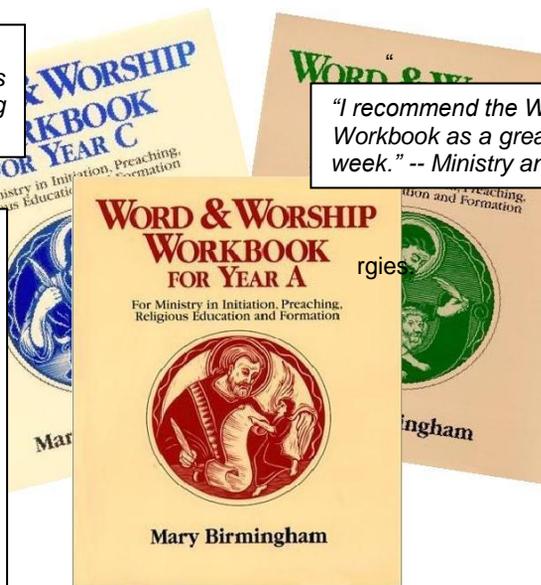
Mary Birmingham

Here is an extensive liturgical and catechetical resource for preparing religious instruction and information for adults and children based on the season, Sundays and feasts of Years A, B and C. As the subtitle indicates, Word and Worship Workbooks are for catechists and teachers "preparing" catechesis or religious instruction. These volumes "breaks open" (explores and interprets) the seasons, Sundays and feasts. Word and Worship Workbooks are directed primarily to adults and the understanding that what we do with adults is normative and flows to what we do with children according to their age and ability. Thus, this resource will assist catechists/teachers/facilitators to prepare age appropriate catechetical-religious education sessions based on the celebration of the liturgy. These resources are also very useful for RCIA catechists who are using Lectionary-based catechesis.

"Parishes committed to lectionary-based catechesis will find Birmingham's book a veritable gold mine."— Living Light

"I recommend the Word and Worship Workbook as a great place to start each week." -- Ministry and Living Worship

"The series of books in the Word and Worship series by Mary Birmingham is excellent and deserves to be on the bookshelves of all those who work in the Church. The books provide homiletic, dogmatic and catechetical instructions and help for all the 153 Sundays of the Church's three year cycle, as well as feast days and special occasions. This is a very worth-while investment, -- Fr. James Leachman, a monk of St. Benedict's Abbey, Ealing



Paulist Press International, U.S., 2001; Price: £102.81 for the set of 3; £34.19 per book



**Faith,
Life &
Creed**
A Complete
Catechesis for
Christian Life

RCIA prep: Catholic Faith, Life, & Creed:

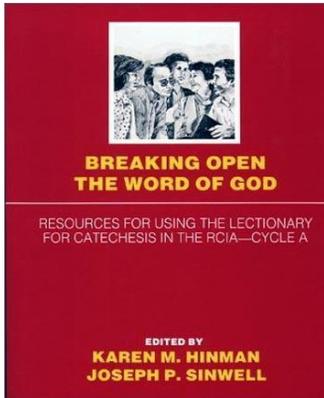
Complete Catechesis for Christian Life, Mary Birmingham

Mary Birmingham has learned the hard way what works and what doesn't when it comes to the RCIA. Mary has distilled that wisdom into a powerful and exciting new catechetical resource: *Faith, Life, & Creed: A Complete Catechesis for Christian Life*. This wonderful e-product resource is going to be a great help to you and your RCIA, youth, confirmation or adult formation team. You get the PDFs and can use them forever! Print only what you need. Includes handouts and permission to reproduce them all.

Twenty-third Publications, New London, CT, 2011; Price \$6.40

Breaking Open the Word of God: Resources for using the Lectionary for Catechesis in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Cycles A, B & C

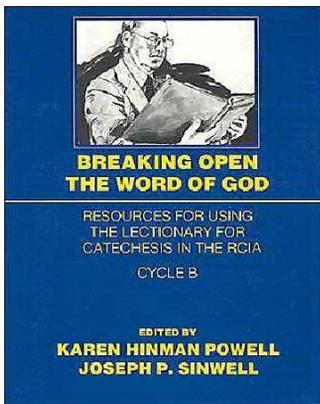
Karen Powel & Joseph Sinwell (editors)



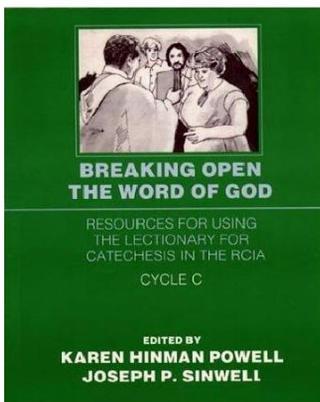
"I heartily recommend this book. Used wisely, it will enable your catechumens and candidates to grow in their spiritual lives as Catholic Christians. Truly this is a tool for the 'pastoral formation' of their lives."

– *Most Rev. Patrick Fr. Flores, D.D.,
Archbishop of San Antonio*

Q. Is it acceptable and/or desirable to dismiss candidates along with the catechumens for "Breaking Open the Word"?



A. There is a certain value of liturgical purity that is validly argued by those who advocate only dismissing the unbaptized catechumens. This recognizes that catechumens, lacking Baptism, are not yet joined to Christ sacramentally, and would greatly benefit from the additional spiritual nourishment that the Church can offer at the table of the Word of God, as they prepare to join the community at the Eucharistic table. The other side of this issue notes that, although baptized, the candidates cannot partake of the Eucharist either, and so would also benefit from deepening their experience of the Sunday readings in this special way. The RCIA text allows for this discernment of pastoral need, without directly calling for candidates to join the catechumens in the dismissal Rite (see RCIA 83 and 406).



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults describes the period of the catechumenate as a time when the catechumens are helped and nourished by the word of God as presented each Sunday in the Liturgy. These three companion books provide theological and pastoral guidelines for the use of the Lectionary as well as outlines for sessions based on the readings of the Sundays and feasts for Cycles A, B and C.

Articles by leading experts on the RCIA focus on catechesis through the Lectionary, the use of small groups and music and prayer. Outlines for each Sunday have been authored by active directors of parish catechumenates in the United States and Canada and offer a variety of models as springboards for local needs.

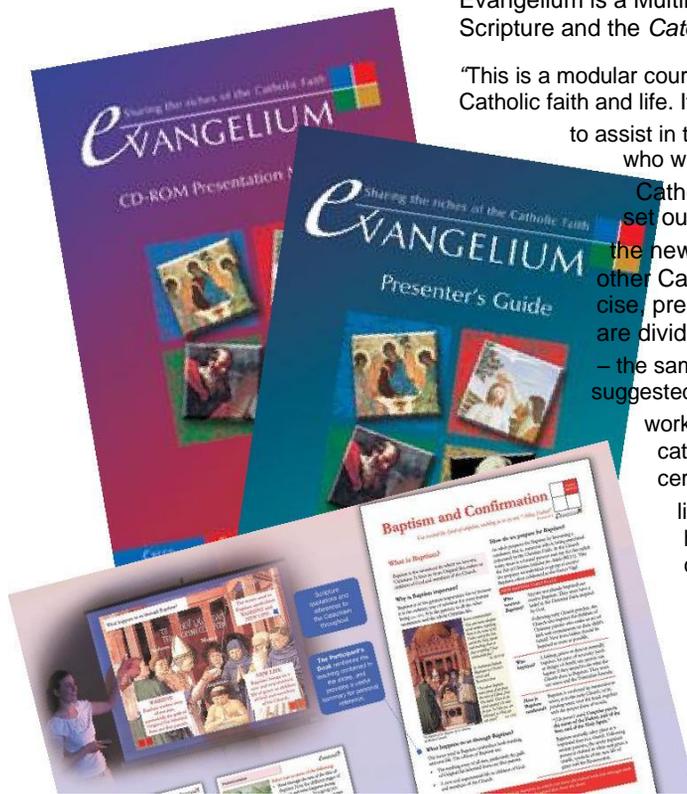
The primary source for catechesis in the catechumenate is the Lectionary. *Breaking Open the Word of God* is a resource that incorporates the principles of adult religious education with the movement of the liturgical year. Catechetical sessions based on the Lectionary and in a variety of formats are presented for each Sunday and holy day of the year. These books also offer helpful introductory articles on key issues in the catechumenate as well as Scripture commentary for each liturgical season by Eugene A. LaVeriere, S.S.

Published by Paulist Press
International, U.S., 2004
Price: £11.61 per book

-- Taken from the blog:
RCIAblog.com

Evangelium Presenter's Guide & Participant's Book

(Second Edition) Fr. Michael Holden and Fr. Andrew Pinsent



Evangelium is a Multimedia Course in the Catholic Faith based on Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

"This is a modular course which aims to teach the essentials of the Catholic faith and life. Its principal uses would be to support RCIA, or to assist in the provision of a refresher course for anybody who wishes to deepen their knowledge of the

Catholic faith. The content of the sessions is clearly set out and draws on Scripture, the *Catechism* and the new *Compendium of the Catechism*, together with other Catholic sources. The presentations set out concise, precise summaries of teaching. The 25 modules are divided into Creed, Sacraments, Morals and Prayer – the same structure as the *Catechism*. One of the suggested sequences on using this resource has been

worked out to accompany the three periods of the catechumenate. Recognising the different periods is certainly helpful. As it is the three major

liturgical gateways of the RCIA process that help to define the methodology and scope of catechesis during each of the periods, with

each stage preparing for, and ordered to the relevant rite, a catechist with a good knowledge of the RCIA process is needed to ensure that the distinct liturgical, catechetical and pastoral aspects are present with the correct emphasis at each stage. This is a beautiful resource, which will be particularly helpful in delivering the key content of the Catholic faith."

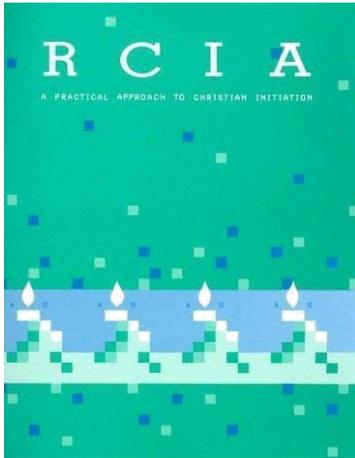
– taken from a review by Denise Hagger. *the Sower*, October 2006

"A revised Edition of this resource is now available. One of the new features is several pages of introduction regarding the practical use of the resource, explaining how to use the pictures, definitions and summary activities. A second feature of this revised edition is the inclusion of a range of questions and answers related to the various topics covered. In part, these questions are derived from the experience of running the programme, and in part they are identified as questions that are helpful for leading into discussion about the subjects being taught. This solid, reliable resource will be useful, then, as a flexible support for catechists who wish to work from a PowerPoint presentation that has been carefully and attractively developed.

The Revised Edition is moving towards a greater emphasis on the formation of the catechist, through this developed Presenter's Guide, and this is surely to be much welcomed since in the final resort it is the catechist who is the 'soul' of every method, and a vibrant catechesis cannot bypass the sound formation and living faith of the one presenting."

– taken from a review by Sr. Rosaleen Shaw, O.P. in the January 2010 *Sower*

Published by the Catholic Truth Society, London 2010, Presenter's Guide (which comes with a CD-ROM): Price: £19.95; Participant's Book: Price: £7.95

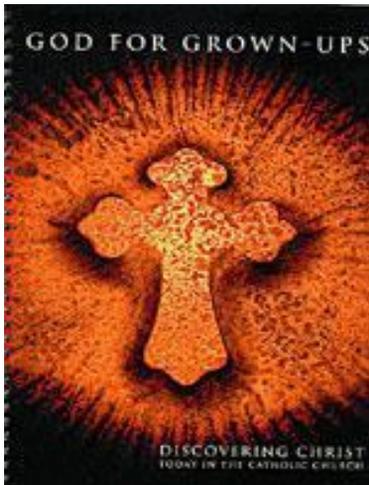


RCIA: A Practical Approach

Rosalie Curtin, SCL, Carl Koch, FSC, et al,

This book is developed on the premise that conversion, the coming to faith, is an ongoing process. While it is a lifelong journey, there are significant events which, when reflected upon, become experiences of grace and growth. While the RCIA process is designed to span certain liturgical seasons, the catechists should tailor it to fit the needs of particular groups with whom they are working. Conversion, growth in faith, and building community are processes of development that vary with each individual and group. All of the parts are seen as important, but not all are of equal importance. This book comes from the collective experience of the authors, but the materials are to be adapted to the individual group. The text is meant to be a resource for the director and team; it is not a final product, but rather an attempt to share what has worked and to encourage others to launch out and try it. The worksheets for participants can be handed out separately during a class or given in workbook form.

Published by Harcourt Religious Pubs, US, 1990; Price: £26.66



God for Grown-ups – Discovering Christ today in the Catholic Church

Fr. Kenneth O'Riordan, Fr. Gerry Murphy, Sr. Ellen McGrath,

God for Grown-ups is a resource book for everyone engaged in teaching the Catholic Faith to adults. It explains the basic thinking behind the RCIA process and offers important background information to the Rite based on practical experience. The starting point for such teaching is the life and experience of the inquirer. This experience is then related to the experience of Jesus Christ and the Church.

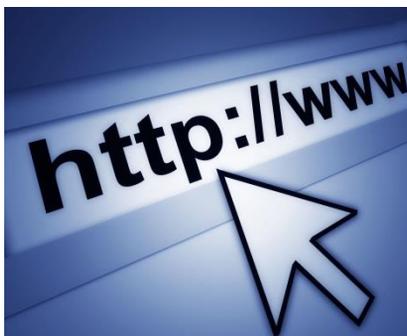
a review

“A very good book for group study. Our RCIA group used this book with a mixed group of adults, including leaders, 'inquirers' seeking the Catholic faith and Catholics wanting to know more about their faith. All liked the layout and found the content thought provoking, especially the questions. The liturgies were very useful for creating a peaceful atmosphere on which to end each session. We will use it again this year.”

— *Cath Elms, reviewed on the Redemptorist website* —

Published by Redemptorist Pubs, Hampshire, 1997; Price: £19.95

Website resources for RCIA catechists

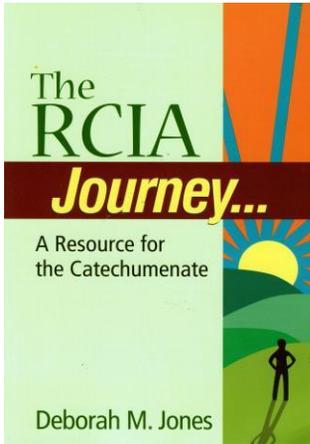


The RCIA Network (www.rcia.org.uk) is made up of people in the U.K. who have leadership roles in the RCIA process in Dioceses and parishes, and exists to support them in their work and exists to support them in their work and to promote an authentic understanding of the Church's teaching about the Rite.

www.TeamRCIA.com is a FREE online U.S. resource for Catholic parishes that want to start or sustain the catechumenate in their communities. The conversations on this site are initiated by five national leaders in the U.S. church who have been serving in RCIA ministry for more than two decades.

www.acmrcia.org was founded in 1998 by a group of bishops, priests, and laity, the Association for Catechumenal Ministry (ACM) seeks to foster the full implementation of the Order of Christian Initiation by providing a communications, resources, and education network for diocesan and parish personnel involved in the work of the catechumenate. ACM's resources and work reflect its focus on the complementarity and indispensability of the various components (liturgical, catechetical, and pastoral) of a comprehensive Christian initiation process

and resources to help you use them



The RCIA Journey

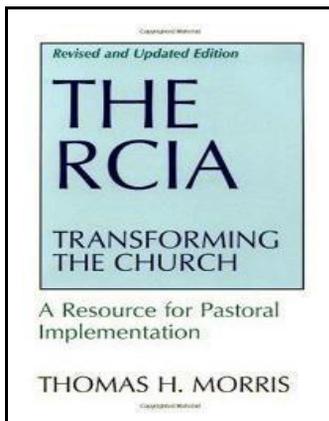
Deborah M. Jones

The RCIA Journey is a systematic exploration of the thinking and practice of Catholicism, primarily intended for use by those parishes in which people are embarking on the catechumenate period of the RCIA. The contents are divided into 20 'sessions', each of which has an introductory text on a theme for home reading, followed by suggestions for group discussion and exploration, and concluding with a short period of prayer. The sessions include: the story, the journey, conversion, Jesus the Christ, Jesus and us, Scripture: the Old Testament, Scripture: the New Testament, the Holy Spirit and the Church, the Church's story, Catholic specialities, prayer, sign and sacrament, baptism and confirmation, Eucharist (Mass), reconciliation, and anointing of the sick, Orders (Priesthood) and marriage, love, sex and the Church, justice and peace, ecumenical and inter-faith movements and the Christian response.

Published by Twenty-third Publications, CT, 2006; Price:£11.99

"I found this book a wonderful resource for the catechumenate stage of the RCIA process. It provides a variety of ways in which solid doctrine as well as many of our Catholic customs can be shared with catechumens and candidates. Jones makes excellent use of both small and large group dynamics. Her prayer experiences should provide real spiritual growth among the participants. The discussion questions are both relevant and challenging, thus providing a lively interaction. The Scripture references for all three cycles (with suggested themes each Sunday) will be a valuable resource for all RCIA planners."

*- a review by Sr. Blanche Cadotte, DHS, DMin,
RCIA Parish Team Co-ordinator*



RCIA: Transforming the Church, A Resource for Pastoral Implementation

Thomas Morris

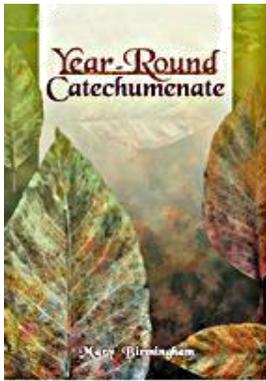
The most up-to-date resource book on the RCIA available that offers general guidelines and practical directions on specific areas of pastoral concern.

"An insightful and comprehensive overview of the RCIA which should serve as a basic resource in every parish liturgical library." – *Rev. James P. Moroney, Executive Director, Secretariat for the Liturgy*

"This is the book for sound advice on how to make the RCIA come alive in your parish." – *Rev. Robert D. Duggan, Parish Priest, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Gaithersburg, MD*

Published by Paulist Press Int'l, Revised ed 2005; Price £12.50

"Thomas Morris provides a beautiful flow of what the process should be." *Nelson Bonet, Consultant for the Catechumenate, Archdiocese of Miami*



Published by Liturgy Training Pubs, Chicago, 2002; £12.99

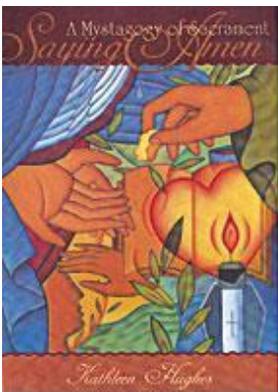
Year-Round Catechumenate

Mary Birmingham

How does the vision of Christian initiation outlined in *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* fit into a program modelled after the school year? It doesn't, argues Mary Birmingham. The RCIA describes an initiation process that exists at the heart of the Church's life and on the same schedule as the Church: every day, all year long. While that may sound overwhelming and unimaginable, Birmingham carefully explains how it is not only possible but also the best stewardship of the gifts and talents of initiation ministers. She then walks the reader step by step through the periods and rites of the RCIA, providing helpful insight along the way.

"The author reminds us that according to the rite, the foremost minister of initiation is *"all the baptized."*

– *Ministry & Liturgy*, James William Bessert, August 2004



Published by Liturgy Training Pubs, Chicago, 2007; Price: £16.95

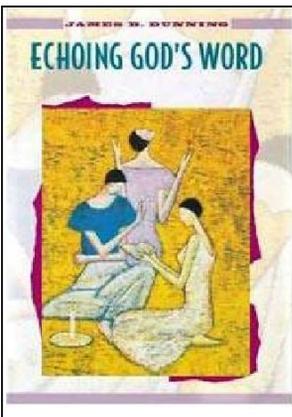
Saying Amen – a Mystagogy of Sacrament

Kathleen Hughes

"In liturgy, as in life, one thing regularly leads to another: understanding leads to loving, loving to participation, participation to commitment, and commitment to a reformed way of living. It seems so elementary. Believers simply need to understand what they are doing when they gather for prayer, and the rest will follow." – *Saying Amen, Chapter 1*

"This book explores a new way of contemplating the liturgy, a mystical way based on the actual experiences of women and men at prayer. Kathleen Hughes interviewed hundreds of ordinary believers about worship, how they had prepared for it, what it touched in their lives, how it helped them name God, and what it asked them to say Amen to. Using the language of the people she interviewed—including images, stories, and metaphors—Hughes explores the meaning of sacraments, including the Christian Initiation of Adults, Infant Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and Vocation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Funerals, and Eucharist. In these pages you are invited to share the experiences of many different types of people: young and old, lifelong Catholics, and those recently welcomed (or welcomed back) into the Church, newly confirmed teenagers, first communicants, newlyweds, those who have recently experienced the death of a loved one, a community of religious women. This book will help you and those you work with to understand and love the liturgy more, to participate more thoughtfully in its celebration, and to embrace a sacramental way of living."

– A review by Sally Matter (SMMatter@aol.com)



Published by Liturgy Training Pubs, Chicago, 1993; Price: £9.95

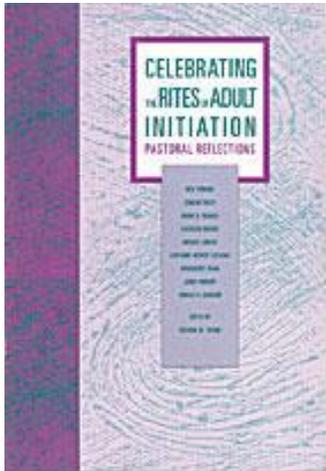
Echoing God's Word: Formation for Catechists & Homilists in a Catechumenal Church

James Dunning

"Jim Dunning brings liturgists and catechists/religious educators together to encourage them to look over and then jump over the fences they have allowed to separate them." – *Michael Warren*

"RCIA teams will want Seattle's Fr. James Dunning's *Echoing God's Word. Formation for Catechists and Homilists in a Catechumenal Church.*"

– *National Catholic Reporter*

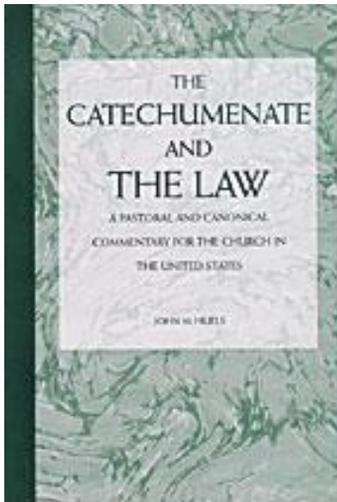


Celebrating the Rites of Adult Initiation: Pastoral Reflections,

edited by Victoria M. Tufano

This book offers the insights of Kathleen Hughes, Michael Joncas, Rita Ferrone, James Moudry, Catherine Mowry Lacugna, Mark Francis, Marguerite Main, Ronald Oakham and Edward Foley on the rites of initiation. These essays look at the Scrutinies, the Rite of Acceptance and the Presentations. Also included are commentaries on the minor exorcisms, the taking of a new name, and the liturgy of the word.

Published by Liturgy Training Publication, Chicago, 1986; Price: £4.00

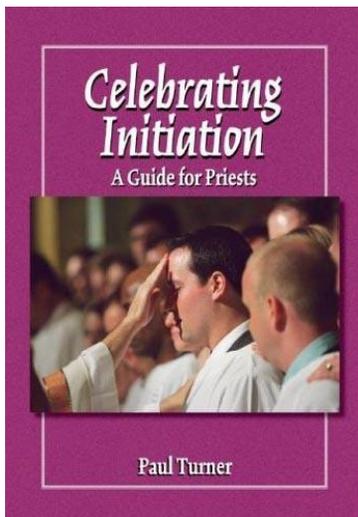


The Catechumenate and the Law: a Pastoral and Canonical Commentary

for the Church in the United States, John M. Huels

Everyone who works with Christian initiation will encounter a predicament that only a knowledge of canon law can resolve. This helpful book reviews the various aspects of Christian initiation that are affected by the Church's many sources of canon law, including the canons, the rite itself and various documents from Vatican II and from the Bishops of the United States. Reading lists, legal texts and an index are included.

Liturgy Training Publication, Chicago, 1986; Price: £13.50



Celebrating Initiation: A Guide for Priests, Paul Turner

"Fascinating full use of the rite is the subject of *Celebrating Initiation: A Guide for Priests*. As the title indicates, this book is aimed at priests who play a critical role in the celebration of the rite. Paul's book offers practical suggestions for the priests in understanding and celebrating the rite. He also provides historical context on elements of the rite that aid in selecting options for the celebration. In this era when time is a limited resource for priests, we tend to be very selective in choices made regarding reading material. This book is a handy guide and a good resource for implementing the rite and helpful for taking time to review what you have done in the past and raising it up a notch."

– Rev. Richard Vega, President, National Federation of Priests' Councils

Published by World Library Publications, Illinois, 2008; Price: £14.03



CHRIST WE PROCLAIM

A Music and Liturgy
Resource for the Rites
of Christian Initiation

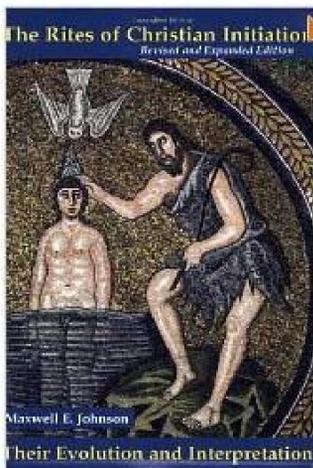


Christ we proclaim – a resource book of music and liturgy for the Rites of Christian Initiation

Christopher Walker, Editor

A year-round resource for musicians, liturgists and RCIA team leaders to help their parishes participate fully in the RCIA process. It helps streamline music selection and preparation so you can focus on creating the best possible environment for a meaningful spiritual experience. It covers the entire period of Christian Initiation from the Precatechumenate through Easter to the Mystagogy and contains a study edition of the ritual text for all the rites, summaries of the rubrics, planning guides for organising the liturgies and a wide selection of music for all the ritual moments.

Published by OCP, distributed in the U.K. by Decani; Price £30

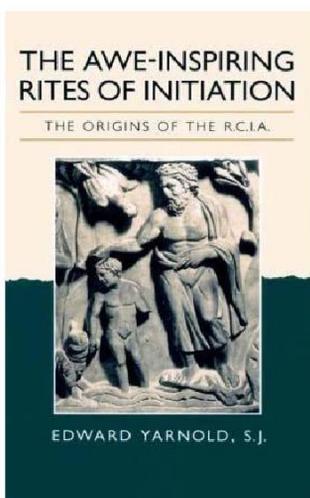


The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation

Maxwell E. Johnson

Growing from the author's experience in teaching the rites of Christian Initiation at different levels, this study, together with selections of primary texts in translation, surveys the development and theology of those rites from their New Testament origins to their current shape in the Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Lutheran Churches. It is intended for all who seek a solid, detailed and challenging foundation for their ministries in the blessed sacrament of Baptism.

Published by Pueblo Publishing Co, U.S.; Rev Ed edition 2008; Price: £25.06

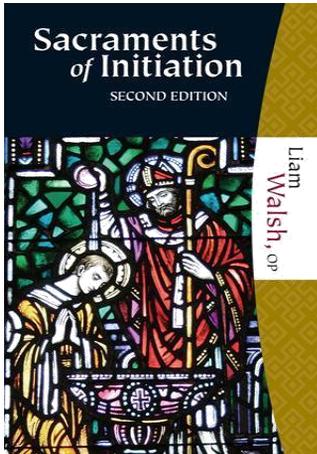


The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation: The Origins of the RCIA

Edward Yarnold, S.J.

This book, uniquely, reproduces the four most important sets of sermons dating from the fourth century concerning the three sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist. This is of particular relevance today, now that the rites for these sacraments have been revised in many Christian churches in the light of fourth-century practice – the most significant modern example being the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Published by Liturgical Press; 2nd edition, 1994; Price £16.65



Sacraments of Initiation, Second Edition: a Theology of Life, Word, and Rite

Liam Walsh OP

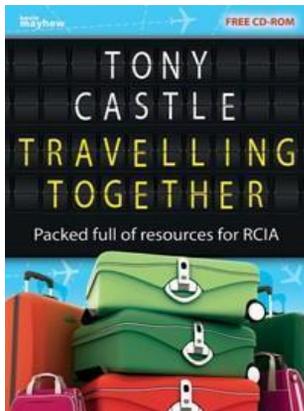
The original edition of this book, in 1988, presented a theology of sacraments that emerged out of a Church stirred into new life by the Second Vatican Council. It is a theology that can claim to have been continuously received in the Catholic Church since then. This new edition has the advantage of being able to look not only at the twenty years of reception of its contents, but also at the way some counter-currents have developed over those years, both in theory and in practice. The sacramental theology contained in this study maintains the broad on-going agreement between what it proposes and mainstream Church teaching and practice, it has, as a work of theology, to take seriously some of the alternatives.

Liturgy Training
Publications, U.S., 2011;
Price \$40.00

Liam G. Walsh is a member of
the Irish Dominican Province.

The book examines and documents the tradition of sacramental practice and teaching. Biblical and historical studies continue to uncover new riches of the tradition, and account is taken of recent findings in this new edition. A careful listening to the tradition of rite and word is truly indispensable for sacramental theology. It was out of such listening that Vatican II teaching on sacraments emerged. It was out of such listening that sacramental practice was reviewed by the Council, and provision was made for recovering the full richness of the tradition. The historical chapters will show the liturgies to be a contemporary expression of fidelity to core values of the Apostolic Tradition.

The chapters on the rite of each sacrament are mainly descriptive and historical, but they also include anthropological reflections that are meant to unveil the human significances of the various rites.



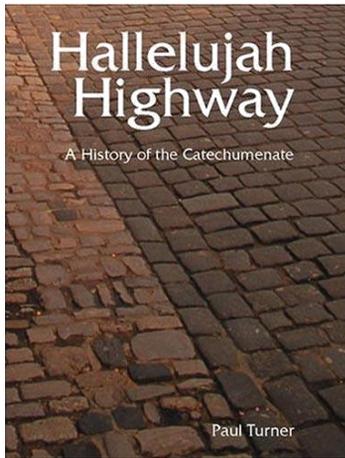
Travelling together: packed full of resources for RCIA

Tony Castle

Travelling Together is not another programme; it is a treasury, or compendium, of resource material that can be used to support and supplement an existing programme.

You'll find the entire resource on the accompanying CD-ROM. There's easy-to-use guidance for the catechists; a glossary, information sheets that can be taken home for further reading and discussion outlines that can prompt interactive involvement, enriching the process as the group travels together towards Easter.

Published by Kevin
Mayhew, Stowmarket,
Suffolk, 2011; Price: £14.99



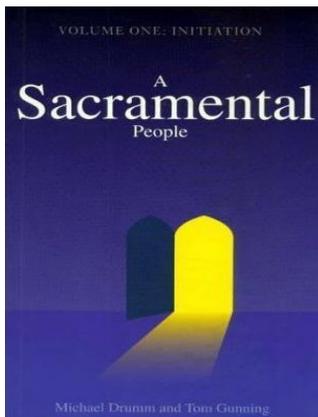
The Hallelujah Highway: a History of the Catechumenate

Paul Turner

A large-format, attractively presented, history of the development of the catechumenate from the early church onwards; contains

illustrations. Christian initiation is a journey marked with the teachings, rituals, actions and songs of faith—a Hallelujah highway, one might say. The history of how the Church has initiated adults and children over the centuries is itself a journey from a vibrant process adapted in many ways according to local need, through a period of dormancy, and back to a vibrancy just beginning to be understood and appreciated. In this exciting new book Paul Turner relates the history of the catechumenate through the stories of people and documents that played a significant role in developing the rites and recording its development from the earliest days of the Church to the present. Quotations from the documents, maps and photos of significant places and artifacts enrich and enliven the story. A comprehensive index and a helpful bibliography make this book immensely useful for pastoral ministers, Christian initiation teams, adult education classes, students, scholars and Church historians.

Published by Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, 2000.
Price: £19.95

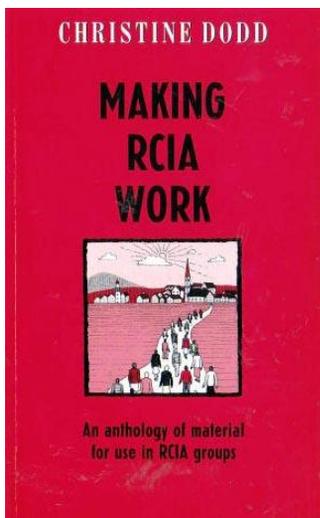


A Sacramental People: Initiation

Vol. 1, Michael Drumm and Tom Gunning

One of the most urgent questions facing the Catholic church is how best to celebrate its sacraments. The authors face this problem directly and realistically. Re-examining the power and potential of the symbols and ritual acts themselves, they offer a range of ideas and approaches for enabling the symbols of initiation to speak directly and powerfully to the people of God. Their suggestions for enhancing the celebration of the Sunday Mass should be useful to priests and people alike. The book also contains a range of tried and tested rituals for various occasions.

Published by Columbia Press, Dublin, 1999;
Price: £12.50

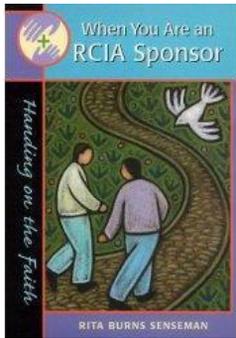


Making RCIA Work

Christine Dodd,

A full guide for leaders of groups accompanying people into faith; the Bible, the Christian tradition and everyday life provide the materials. It is a practical and down-to-earth guide to the RCIA based on Christine Dodd's own experience in parishes. It contains lively stories and case studies and includes worksheets and follow-up sessions. It offers some group formats for a process-centred small group that address possible questions for the four phases in the catechumenate: What can we make of a mystery? What is God like? What do I think of Jesus? What is baptism, confirmation, eucharist? What about justice?

Published by Geoffrey Chapman, London, 1993; Price: £13.00



When you are an RCIA Sponsor:

Handing on the Faith series, Rita Burns Senseman

This book has 2 purposes, one as a guide for all those sponsoring someone through the RCIA course and also it makes a great gift to give to the person you want to sponsor you so that both parties are fully aware of the commitment. Rita manages to reflect on the responsibility and significance of being chosen to share your faith and personal experience with someone less familiar with that path. It includes a description of the rituals and also theology surrounding baptism and RCIA. Each chapter gives a chance for reflection on learning, introductions to the faith, church and prayer. This book also contains information on sponsoring a family.

Published by St Anthony Messenger Press, CN, OH, 2001; Price: £2.95

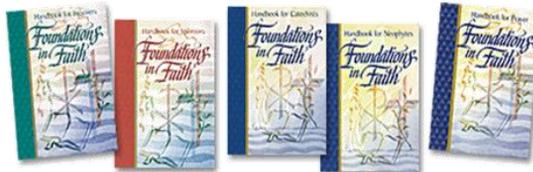


RCIA Godparent & Sponsor Handbook

This inexpensive and succinct booklet provides a straightforward and practical aide to those serving as sponsors or godparents in the Christian initiation process. It is pragmatic, spiritual, down-to-earth, and easy to read. A unique feature of this full colour booklet is a home retreat for godparents and sponsors based on encountering Scripture through a highly-accessible form of Lectio Divina. This new resource enables parish RCIA leaders to provide a high-quality means of effectively communicating the Church's intentions for this crucial ministry of companionship and conversion in the catechumenate.

– *an invaluable resource, Bishop William Lori, Diocese of Bridgeport CT*

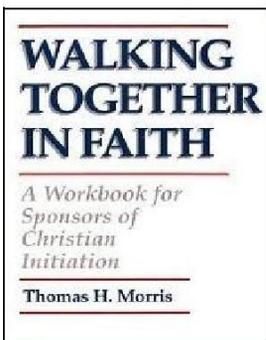
Published by Association for Catechumenal Ministry, MD, US, Price: £3.95



Handbooks for Inquirers, Sponsors, Catechists, Neophytes

and a handbook on Prayer – all providing helpful information and prayerful exercises for reflection which lead the various ministries to a deeper understanding of their work and which help the enquirers and neophytes in their exploration of faith as they journey towards being Catholic Christians.

Published by Resources for Christian Living, Allen, Texas, 1998; Price: £2.95 each



Walking together in faith:

a workbook for sponsors - by Thomas H. Morris

Outlines the sponsor's role and responsibility in initiation, offering basic skills. "This helpful handbook has all the qualities which we look for in the journey of Christian Initiation. Thomas Morris sponsors and guides the sponsors/leaders in the same way as he encourages them to sponsor our new members with an invitation to deepen their own conversion. with exercises that respect their experience and enable the self disclosure that leads to God's disclosure and with care and a listening heart for the presence of mystery and God in their lives. In very practical ways, he calls the sponsors to a depth of faith, to the giving of themselves and their time to be companions in faith and to see sponsoring as an absolutely critical ministry both for the candidate and the community."

James Dunning, N.American Forum on the Catechumenate

Paulist Press International, U.S., 1992; Price: £1.99

Catholic bookshops, publishers & websites

Catholic Truth Society – CTS Publishers & Bookshops

40-46 Harleyford Road, Vauxhall, London SE11 5AY Telephone 020 7640 0042; Website: www.cts-online.org.uk

Kevin Mayhew Publishers

Buxhall, Stowmarket, IP14 3BW; Telephone: 01449 737978; website: www.kevinmayhew.com

Liturgy Training Publications

4251 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60641; Telephone: 001773 527 3565; website: www.ltp.org

Matthew James Publishing

19 Wellington Close, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2EE; Telephone: 01245 347710; Website: www.matthew-james.co.uk

McCrimmons Publishers & Bookshop

At All Saints Pastoral Centre, Shenley Lane, London Colney, Herts. AL2 1AF; Telephone: 01727 827612 at 10-12 High Street, Great Wakering, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS3 0EQ
Telephone: 01702 218956; Website: www.mccrimmons.com

Pauline Books & Media: Publishers & Bookshop

In Kensington: 199 Kensington High Street, London W8 6BA; Telephone: 020 7937 9591; at Middle Green, Slough, SL3 6BS; Telephone 01753 577629; Website: www.pauline-uk.org

Redemptorist Publications

Alphonsus House, Chawton, Hampshire GU34 3HQ; Telephone: 0142 088 222; Website: www.rpbooks.co.uk

St. Mary's Press

702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1320; Telephone: 001 507-457-7900; Website: www.smp.org

St. Paul's Publishers & Bookshop

Morpeth Terrace, Westminster, London, SW1P 1EP; Telephone: 020 7828 5582; Website: www.stpauls.org.uk

Viewpoint Resources Direct

21 Point Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8QW; Telephone: 020-8692-1138; Website: www.viewpoint24.co.uk

William H. Sadlier, Inc.

9 Pine Street, New York, NY 10005-1002; Telephone: 001 800-221-5175; Website: www.sadlier.com

Websites

There are websites noted throughout this resource. Don't forget, in addition, some of these prominent Catholic websites:

- Westminster Diocese: www.rcdow.org.uk
- Bishops' Conference of England & Wales: www.catholic-ew.org.uk
- Vatican website which has many Church documents, including the *Catechism*, the *General Directory for Catechesis* and all the Vatican II documents: www.vatican.va
- CAFOD: www.cafod.org.uk
- Sacred Space for prayer: <http://sacredspace.ie/>

There are many more websites we could include. Why not e-mail the Agency and suggest some of your favourites?

RCIA & Rite of Election 2017 Date Reminder:

The Rite of Election and Affirmation 2017

Westminster Cathedral at 3:00 p.m. both days:

Saturday 4th March 2017- The following deaneries will attend:

Barnet, Brent, Camden, Hackney, Harrow, Hillingdon, Kensington & Chelsea, Marylebone, Upper Thames, Watford and Westminster

Sunday 5th March 2017- These deaneries will attend:

Ealing, Enfield, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Hounslow, Islington, Lea Valley, North Kensington, St. Albans, Stevenage and Tower Hamlets

RCIA & Rite of Election Seminars

Catechists & Clergy should book to attend the seminar by emailing or calling Warren Brown.

Email: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk Tel: 020 7798 9152

Submit: Application for Admission into Full Communion with the Catholic Church

Please return this form by 3rd February 2017

To: **Warren Brown**

Agency for Evangelisation

Vaughan House

46 Francis Street

London

SWIP IQN

Submit: Rite of Election Attendance Form

Please return this form by 3rd February 2017

To: **Warren Brown**

Agency for Evangelisation

Vaughan House

46 Francis Street

London

SWIP IQN