



“Happy those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked, nor go the way of sinners, nor sit in company with scoffers.

Rather, the law of the Lord is their joy; God’s law they study day and night.

They are like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season; its leaves never wither; whatever they do prospers.”

PSALM 1:1-3

New American Bible translation

**RCIA BOOK  
NATIONAL STATUTES REGARDING THE BAPTIZED  
APPENDIX III**

SORTING THE SEEKERS

A. UNBAPTIZED: STATUTES #1 - #24  
(PLACED INTO THE RCIA)

B. BAPTIZED CATHOLIC BUT NO CATECHESIS: STATUTES #25 - #29  
(MAY BE PLACED INTO THE RCIA)

C. BAPTIZED CHRISTIAN BUT NO CATECHESIS: STATUTES #2, #3, #30  
(MAY BE PLACED INTO THE RCIA OR FAITH FORMATION)

D. BAPTIZED CATHOLIC, WITH SOME CATECHESIS SEEKING EUCHARIST  
AND/OR CONFIRMATION: STATUTES #2, #3, #25, #26,  
#27, #28, (PLACED INTO A FAITH FORMATION)

E. BAPTIZED CHRISTIAN WITH SOME CATECHESIS (RECEPTION INTO  
FULL COMMUNION): STATUTES #30 - #37  
(PLACED INTO A FAITH FORMATION)

F. CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE: STATUTES #18 -#19

## **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOLLOWS A PASTORAL FORMATION MODEL**

The Model is one of apprenticeship

The Goal is forming active members of a missioned community

Fulfillment for the member is a life of prayer and action leading to justice

The model presumes a willingness to enter the journey of conversion

The setting is the Sunday Liturgy

The time of formation is in relationship with the Liturgical year

The primary tool used for formation is the Lectionary

This formation is part of the Parish ministry

This model of formation is lived

The community is the faith sharer

Many people are involved

The relationship style is one of the community to the new member

## **MINISTRIES OF A CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM**

1. Interviews/Conversations: Different interviews or conversations are needed to take place during the process to help the persons discern their readiness. First is the initial meeting, then for moving into other periods of the process, for the sacraments and for ministry participation.
2. Communication: the ongoing communication with the parish members through the staff, councils, team, sponsors and families and the many groups involved in the parish.
3. Liturgy Planning: there are several liturgical rites in the process that need coordination between different representatives of liturgy in the parish.
4. Retreats/Days of Prayer or Reflection: having a retreat or days of reflection and prayer is important to the spiritual journey of the participants. These times are to offer spiritual direction, time for discernment, and community building in the group.
5. Prayer and Rituals: prayer is important at each stage, requiring the team members to be sensitive as to which stage they are facilitating in. All forms and styles of prayer are to be used as appropriate to the group.
6. Sponsor Formation: this is a year-round role for team members. Selecting those in the community that are able to meet the requirements of sponsor, offering formation to them on the process, introducing their candidates, offering understanding to sponsors before each one of the rites.
7. Evangelization and Outreach: these team members are aware of areas to help the participants reach out to serve others and find ways to do so. This ministry leads the participants to the mission of their faith formation.

8. Catechesis: the catechesis in the process of initiation is different in each stage. The team members need to discern which stage they will be most effective in using their gifts.

Pre-catechumenate – this includes storytelling and questioning; team members need to live without knowing exactly how many persons will be present or what they will all want to know; the inquirers set the agenda.

Catechumenate – this stage follows the lectionary for its connection to the liturgy; conversion is the issue of the stage; this stage opens the church teachings.

Purification and Enlightenment – preparation for the sacraments; the stage is a retreat like experience calling for recognition of sin and temptation that lead one away from a life of faith and further openness to conversion.

Mystagogia: this is the stage following the Easter Vigil; it is a time to unfold all that has taken place, to see where the participant had been and to uncover where they are at present; to discover where they are to serve, and using their gifts, do their part in Christ's mission of building the Kingdom of God.

## **THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

### **First Period: Pre-Catechumenate**

Persons: Inquirers, those seeking baptism Candidates, those already baptized and *Uncatechized*

Intent: Awakening of faith

Content: Time to build trust; to share personal stories and questions; to foster initial conversion; and to introduce them into the life of the community

Time: Unlimited

Rites: No specific rites

Celebration of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (For those unbaptized.)  
Celebration of the Rite of Welcoming those who are baptized but uncatechized, to complete initiation

### **Second Period: Catechumenate**

Persons: Catechumens (unbaptized) and Candidates (baptized)

Intent: Deepening initial conversion and passing on Catholic tradition

Content: Time to deepen faith and conversion through Liturgical Catechesis, life of the community, prayer and worship, and introduction to the apostolic life

Time: One to a few years

Rites: Dismissals; blessings, anointing's, exorcisms, and the Rite of Sending to Election for unbaptized

Celebration of the Rite of Election, Enrollment of Names for those unbaptized  
Celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates, preparing for Confirmation/Eucharist, and those for  
Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church

### **Third Period: Purification and Enlightenment**

Persons: Elect (unbaptized) and Candidates (baptized)

Intent: To eliminate what is weak and sinful; affirm what is holy

Content: To reflect/retreat, in final preparation for the celebration for the sacraments of Initiation

Time: Season of Lent

Rites: Scrutinies, Presentations of the Creed and the  
Lord's Prayer, preparation for sacraments

Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)  
Celebration of the Rite of Reception into the Full communion of the Catholic Church  
Celebration of Completion of Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Eucharist)

**Fourth Period: Mystagogy (Postbaptismal Catechesis)**

Persons: Neophytes

Intent: To celebrate faith, to break open the mysteries, discern personal call to ministry and mission of Christ

Content: To deepen sacramental life with emphasis on Gospel, Eucharist and Mission

Time: Easter to Pentecost and then till anniversary of initiation

Rites: Sunday Eucharist with Community