

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Journey in Faith



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PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE

A time of inquiry.



- Opportunity for the beginnings of faith.
- At this stage, you, the *Inquirer* have been moved by the Holy Spirit to inquire about the Catholic faith, but you may still be deciding on officially entering the RCIA process.
- There is no fixed duration or structure to this time of inquiry.
- You may have been inquiring for years by the time you have decided to come to RCIA sessions.

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE/RITE OF WELCOME

- Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens
 - Candidates express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.
- Rite of Welcome
 - Those who have been baptized are welcomed into the community and acknowledge themselves to be part of it.

MOVING FORWARD →

Time to make a decision:

- Am I still attracted by the Catholic faith?
- Do I want to continue this journey of faith?
- Am I ready to celebrate this Rite and move forward?

It should not be done too early, but should be delayed until the candidates, according to their own dispositions and situation, have had sufficient time to conceive an initial faith and to show the first signs of conversion.

~Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 18



CATECHUMENATE

Nurturing and growth of faith and conversion to God.



- ❖ Spiritual and Catechetical Formation
- ❖ Deeper Exploration of the Faith
- ❖ Once you are accepted into the Order of Catechumens, you are referred to as a *Catechumen*.
- ❖ Or, if have been baptized in another church, you are referred to as a *Candidate* after the Rite of Welcome.

RITE OF ELECTION/ENROLLMENT OF NAMES CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

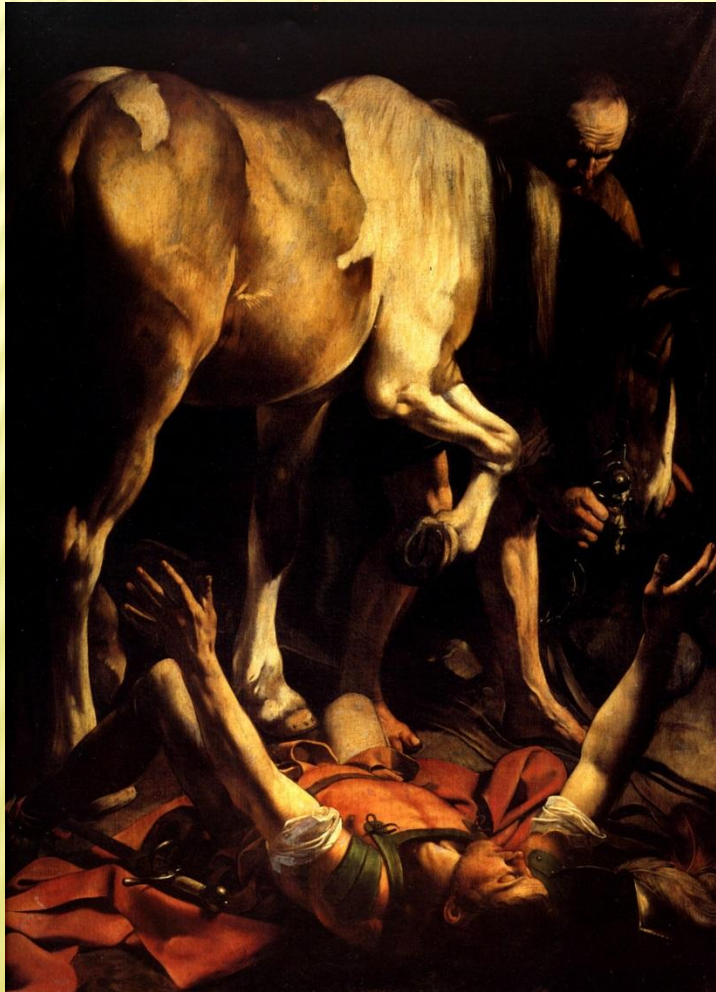
- During the Rite of Election, the Church formally ratifies the catechumens' readiness for the sacraments of initiation. By enrolling your name, you, the *Elect*, express the will to receive the sacraments.



- During the Call to Continuing Conversion, candidates are recognized and affirmed by the Church.
- These rites normally occur with the start of the liturgical season of Lent and initiate the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

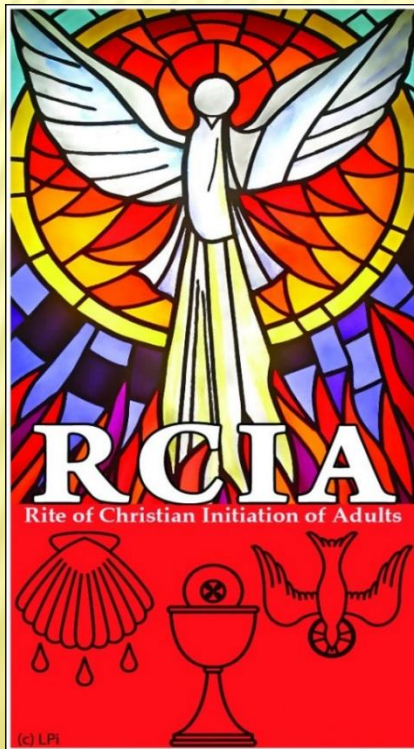
Preparation to Receive the Sacraments



- ❖ This time coincides with the liturgical season of Lent.
- ❖ It is a period of reflection, intensely centered on conversion.
- ❖ Liturgical Rites belonging to this period:
 - ❖ **Scrutinies** are rites of self-searching and repentance which are prayed over the elect usually on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent to prepare one for the sacraments of initiation.
 - ❖ The **Penitential Rite** marks the Lenten purification of baptized adults.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

- ❖ The Elect are initiated through baptism, confirmation and the eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass.
- ❖ Candidates for full Reception into the Catholic Church will make a profession of faith in which they were baptized, receive the sacrament of confirmation and take part in the eucharist.

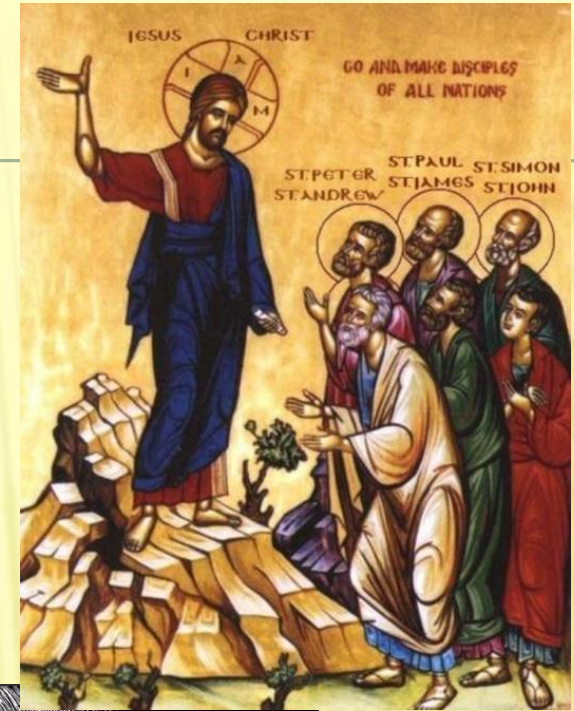


Congratulations *Neophytes!*
As fully received into the Catholic Church,
you are now “new lights” to the world.

MYSTAGOGY

Postbaptismal Catechesis

- Gather as a member of the Church
 - To grow in deepening your grasp of the paschal mystery
 - To examine the Gospel more deeply
 - Share the Eucharist
 - Perform Works of Charity
- Mystagogy includes a lifelong growing in the faith.

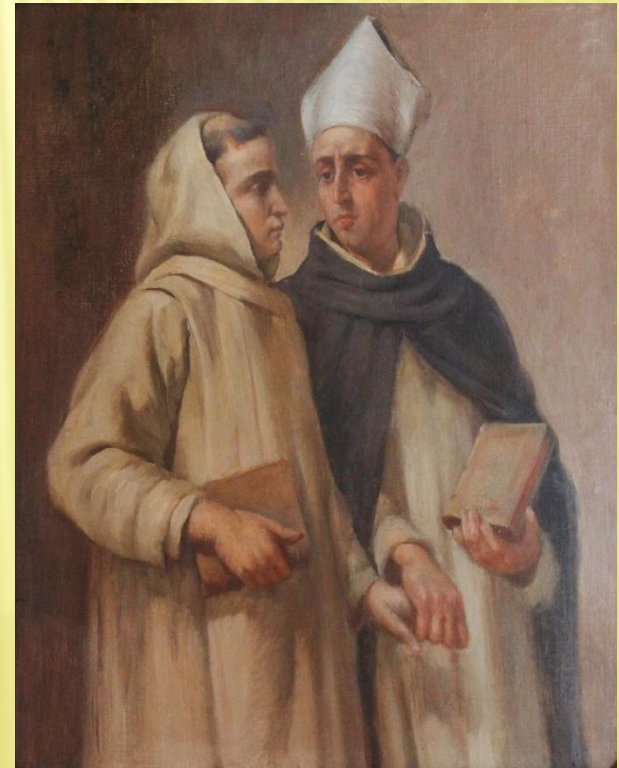


“For they have truly been renewed in mind, tasted more deeply the sweetness of God’s word, received the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and grown to know the goodness of the Lord”

THE ROLE OF A SPONSOR



- A companion along the way
- A mentor
- A person of prayer
- Your link to the Catholic community
- The hands and voice of the community at the Rites





RCIA

What is the structure of the RCIA process?

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Pre-Catechumenate

"Inquirer"

- First hearing of the Gospel
- Beginning of faith
- Stirrings of repentance
- Practice of Prayer
- Sense of Church

Evangelization

Rite of Acceptance

Catechumenate

"Catechumen"

Formed by

- Word
- Community
- Liturgy
- Mission

Kindly Dismissed

Faith Formation/
Catechesis

Rite of Election

Purification & Enlightenment

"Elect"

Spiritual Formation Intensified

- Prayer
- Fasting
- Almsgiving

Prayer &
Discernment

Rites of Initiation

Mystagogy

"Neophyte"

Post-baptismal Catechesis

- Easter Season liturgies
- Homilies
- Special place in the assembly
- General Intercessions
- Participation in parish ministries

On-going Formation



“Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction”

Deus Caritas Est