

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Outline

Periods and Steps	1 <sup>st</sup> Period = Period of Evangelisation and Precatechumenate (also known as the Period of Inquiry)	1 <sup>st</sup> Step = Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (for non-baptised)	1 <sup>st</sup> Step (a) = Welcoming the Candidates (for those already baptised)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period = Period of the Catechumenate	2 <sup>nd</sup> Step = Election / Enrolment of Names (for non-baptised)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Step (a) = Call to Continuing Conversion (for those already baptised)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period = Period of Purification and Enlightenment	3 <sup>rd</sup> Step = Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (for non-baptised)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Step (a) = Rite of Reception into full communion of the Catholic Church (for those already baptised)	4 <sup>th</sup> Period = Mystagogia (also known as the Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis)
<b>Titles Used</b>	Inquirers	Catechumens	Candidates = the name used from now on for those who have been validly baptised in another Christian Faith	Catechumens for those who are unbaptised ; Candidates for those who have been validly baptised in another Christian Faith	The Catechumens are now called the Elect	Candidates are still known as Candidates	The Catechumens are called the Elect; Candidates are still known as Candidates	The Elect	Candidates	The Elect are now referred to as Neophytes
<b>General Theme</b>	Getting to Know Each Other	Follow the Light	Journey of Faith	Initial Formation in Christ	Calling	Continuing Conversion	Preparation / Retreat	New Life	The Journey Continues	New Beginning
<b>Keyword /s</b>	Consultation	Ready to Move On	Welcome	Building	Readiness	Conversion	Integration	Initiation	Full communion	Application
<b>Leading Party</b>	Inquirer	Presbyter and Parish	Presbyter and Parish	Catechist	The local Bishop	The local Bishop	Parish	The Elect / Presbyter / Parish	The Candidate / Presbyter / Parish	Holy Spirit
<b>Length of Time / Dates</b>	Not fixed – according to the needs and wishes of the Inquirer	Often celebrated on a particular annual date or dates	Often celebrated on a particular annual date or dates	Any extended period; from months to several years	Usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent	Usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent	Lasts for the whole season of Lent	Usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil	Usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil	The Easter Season
<b>Aim</b>	Establish trust between Inquirers, Pastors, and Catechists	Marks the formal beginning of the Catechumenate (Teaching) Period	Marks the formal beginning of the Catechumenate (Teaching) Period	A time of nurturing and growth of the Catechumens and Candidates faith and conversion to God and the Catholic Church	The Church formally ratifies the Catechumens readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation; and they publicly express their wish to receive them	The Church formally ratifies the Candidates readiness to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church; and they publicly express their wish to do this	Intense spiritual preparation for the Easter sacraments; examination and reflection of life	The Elect are formally initiated into the Church through Baptism	The Candidates are received into full Communion with the Church	Becoming fully part of the of the Christian community
<b>Content</b>	Exploration of the Inquirers background and needs. Introduction to the values of the Gospel	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated during Holy Mass	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated during Holy Mass	Thorough formation and instruction into the fundamentals of the faith	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated at the local Diocesan Cathedral, led by the Bishop	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated at the local Diocesan Cathedral, led by the Bishop	Prayer, fasting, alms giving; Lenten Scriptural reflection; Sacramental reflection	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated at the local Church during the Easter Vigil; the Elect receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated at the local Church during the Easter Vigil; the Candidates receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist	Easter Gospel reflection; Eucharistic celebration; works of Charity; Introduction to Parish Groups and / or Organisations
<b>Rites</b>	Prayers suited to the Inquirers	Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens	The Rite of Welcoming for Candidates	All - Celebration of the Word; Catechumens - Minor Exorcisms and Blessings; Candidates - Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion	Election or Enrolment of Names	The Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion towards full Communion of the Catholic Church	The Elect -Scrutinies and Exorcisms; Presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer; Candidates - Penitential Rite (Scrutiny) and Sacrament of Reconciliation	Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation	The Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the full Communion of the Catholic Church	Attendance and Participation at Holy Mass