

# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Overview



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## Acknowledgements

*In the creation of this PowerPoint presentation I have borrowed from the following excellent website: <http://www.stmarydekab.org/rcia/index.html>. This is the website for St Mary Parish, DeKalb, Illinois.*

*Many of the graphics come from Thomas Scharbach beautiful website:  
[http://members.aol.com/tombecket/ts\\_graph.htm](http://members.aol.com/tombecket/ts_graph.htm)*

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*This presentation is based upon the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) together with additional rites approved for use in the diocese of the United States of America (USA).*

*The numbers shown in the presentation relate to the relevant sections of the USA RCIA document.*

*Chris Sloan  
February 2007*

# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Overview

## The First Step: **Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens [41 - 47]**

Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens is the first rite of the RCIA process for those who are unbaptised. It takes place within the context of a Sunday Mass. Those wishing to enter into the second period of the RCIA (the Catechumenate or Study Period) make a public commitment to accept the way of the cross. The worshipping community, the members of the parish family, publicly welcome the unbaptised Inquirers and promise to support to them in their ongoing journey of faith.

At the beginning of this rite the Inquirers are referred to as Candidates. By the end of the Rite they are referred to as Catechumens. They retain this title up to the Rite of Election at the local Diocesan Cathedral.



# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Overview

## The First Step: Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, cont...

The outline of this Rite is as follows [48 - 68]:

### Receiving the Candidates

- Greeting
- Open Dialogue
- Candidates First Acceptance of the Gospel
- Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly
- Signing of the Candidates with the Cross:
  - Signing of the Forehead
  - [Signing of the Other Senses] – optional
- Concluding Prayer
- Invitation to the Celebration of the Word of God

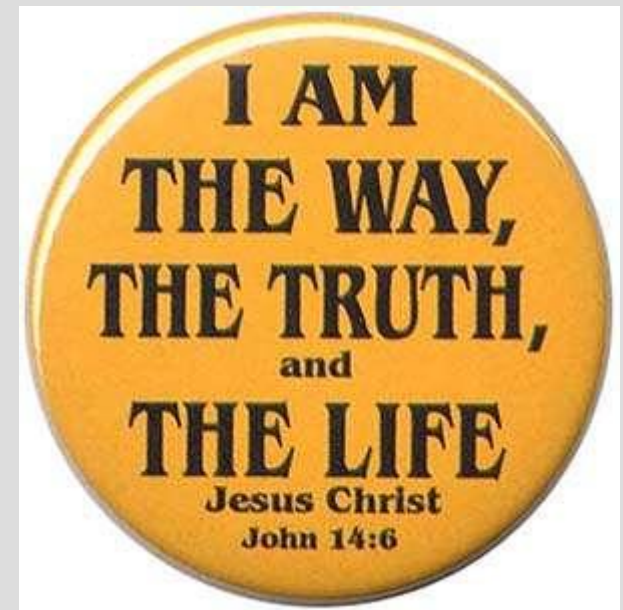
### Liturgy of the Word

- Instruction
- Readings
- Homily
- [Presentation of a Bible] - optional
- Intercessions for the Catechumens
- Prayer over the Catechumens
- Dismissal of the Catechumens

# Step Summary

## The First Step: The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumens

<u>Periods and Steps</u>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Step</b> = Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens [for non-baptised]
<u>Titles Used</u>	Catechumens
<u>General Theme</u>	Follow the Light
<u>Keyword /s</u>	Ready to Move On
<u>Leading Party</u>	Presbyter and Parish
<u>Length of Time / Dates</u>	Often celebrated on a particular annual date or dates
<u>Aim</u>	Marks the formal beginning of the Catechumenate (Teaching) Period
<u>Content</u>	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated during Holy Mass
<u>Rites</u>	Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens



# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Overview

## The First Step (a): **The Rite Welcoming the Candidates [411 - 415]**

The Rite of Welcoming the Candidates is the first rite of the RCIA process for those who are baptised. As with the rite of Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumens, this rite takes place within the context of a Sunday Mass. The baptised Inquirers are now referred to as Candidates, and are known by this title for the rest of the RCIA process.

The Candidates make a public commitment to accept the way of the cross. The worshipping community, the members of the parish family, publicly welcome the Candidates and promise to support them in their ongoing journey of faith.



# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Overview

## The First Step (a): The Rite of Welcoming the Candidates, cont...

The outline of this Rite is as follows [416 - 433]:

### Receiving the Candidates

- Greeting
- Opening Dialogue
- Candidates' Declaration of Intent
- Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly
- Signing of the Candidates with the Cross:
  - Signing of the Forehead
  - [Signing of the Other Senses] - optional
- Concluding Prayer

### Liturgy of the Word

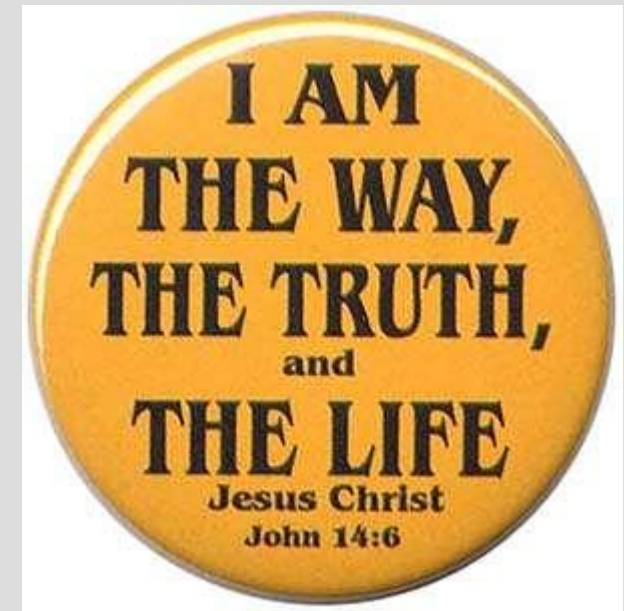
- Instruction
- Readings
- Homily
- [Presentation of a Bible] - optional
- Profession of Faith
- General Intercessions
- Prayer over the Candidates

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

# Step Summary

## The First Step (a): The Rite of Welcoming for Candidates

<u>Periods and Steps</u>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Step (a)</b> = Welcoming the Candidates [for those already baptised]
<u>Titles Used</u>	Candidates = the name used from now on for those who have been validly baptised in another Christian Faith
<u>General Theme</u>	Journey of Faith
<u>Keyword /s</u>	Welcome
<u>Leading Party</u>	Presbyter and Parish
<u>Length of Time / Dates</u>	Often celebrated on a particular annual date or dates
<u>Aim</u>	Marks the formal beginning of the Catechumenate (Teaching) Period
<u>Content</u>	A formal liturgical rite, which is often celebrated during Holy Mass
<u>Rites</u>	The Rite of Welcoming for Candidates





# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Overview

## The First Step (b):

**The (Combined) Celebration of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the Rite of Welcoming Baptised but Previously Uncatechized Adults Who are Preparing for Confirmation and/or Eucharist or Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church [505 - 506]**

**The outline of this Rite is as follows [507 – 529]:**

### Receiving the Candidates

- Greeting
- Opening Dialogue with Candidates for the Catechumenate and with the Candidates for Post-baptismal Catechesis
- Catechumens' First Acceptance of the Gospel
- Candidates' Declaration of Intent
- Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly
- Signing of the Catechumens and of the Candidates with the Cross:
  - Signing of the Forehead
  - [Signing of the Other Senses] - optional
- Concluding Prayer
- Invitation to the Celebration of the Word of God

### Liturgy of the Word

- Instruction
- Readings
- Homily
- [Presentation of a Bible] - optional
- Intercessions
- Prayer over the Catechumens and Candidates
- Dismissal of the Catechumens

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

An aerial, grayscale photograph of a city, likely Rome, showing a large stadium in the foreground. The stadium has a prominent circular structure and a large, ornate facade. The surrounding city is densely packed with buildings and streets.

The Roman Catholic

RCIA Resource Site:

<http://www.catechumen.org.uk>

email: [catholic@catechumen.org.uk](mailto:catholic@catechumen.org.uk)