

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*

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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.

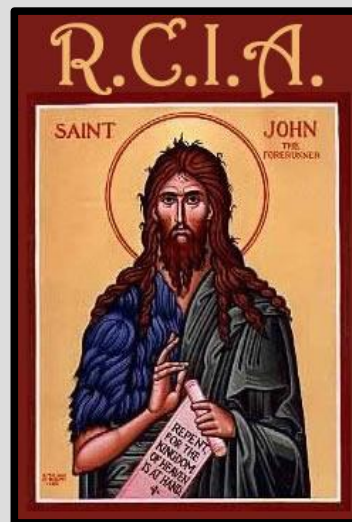
*Chris Sloan
February 2007*

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The Second Period: The Period of the Catechumenate [75 - 80]

A Catechumen (from Latin catechumenus, Greek κατηχουμενος , instructed) is one receiving instruction in the principles of the Christian religion with a view to baptism. It is for this reason that those who are already validly baptised in another Christian Faith are not known as Catechumens, but rather Candidates.

[75] The Catechumenate is an extended period during which the candidates are given suitable pastoral formation and guidance, aimed at training them in the Christian life.



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The Second Period: The Period of the Catechumenate, cont...

This is achieved in four ways {paraphrased}:

- Suitable catechesis; solidly supported by celebrations of the Word
- The Catechumens learning to:
 - ✦ Turn more readily to God in prayer
 - ✦ To bear witness to the Faith
 - ✦ In all things to keep their hopes set on Christ
 - ✦ To follow supernatural inspiration in their deeds
 - ✦ To practice the love of neighbour, even at the cost of self-renunciation
- Suitable liturgical rites, which purify the Catechumens little by little and strengthen them; including celebrations of the Word
- Learning to work actively with others to spread the Gospel



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The Second Period: The Period of the Catechumenate, cont...

The Period of the Catechumenate is a time for:

- "Breaking Open the Word" - reading and discussing the Sunday Gospel
- Continuing to build community within the group
- Getting more involved in parish activities, getting to know the parish community
- Learning about the basic teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church

More importantly, it is a time for:

- Continuing to examine God's presence in our lives, past and present
- Developing prayer life, entering into the communal worship of the parish
- Fostering conversion
- Developing or improving our relationship with God



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The Second Period: The Period of the Catechumenate, cont...

Topics covered during this period include:

- Catholics and God
- Catholics and Jesus
- Catholics and the Holy Spirit
- Catholics and Sin
- Catholics and Redemption
- Catholics and Religion

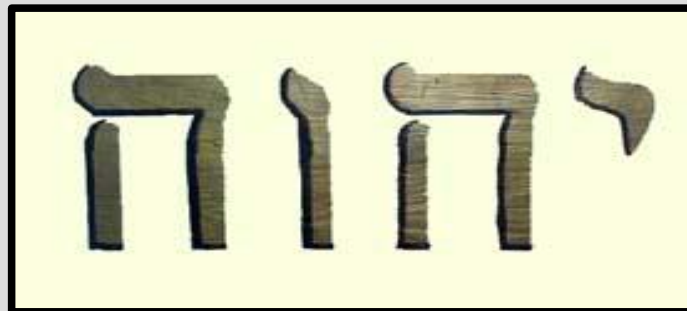


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The Second Period: The Period of the Catechumenate, cont...

Various rites pertain to this period of instruction for those who are unbaptised [Catechumens]:

- Celebrations of the Word of God [81 - 89]
- Minor Exorcisms [90 - 94]
- Blessings of the Catechumens [95 - 97]
- Anointing of the Catechumens [98 - 103]
- Presentations {Optional} [104 - 105]
- Sending of the Catechumens for Election {Optional} [106 - 117]



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The Second Period: **The Period of the Catechumenate, cont...**

An optional Rite also pertains to this period for those who are baptised [Candidates]:

- Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion [434 - 445]

There is also a combined optional Rite if there are both Catechumens and Candidates in a Parish:

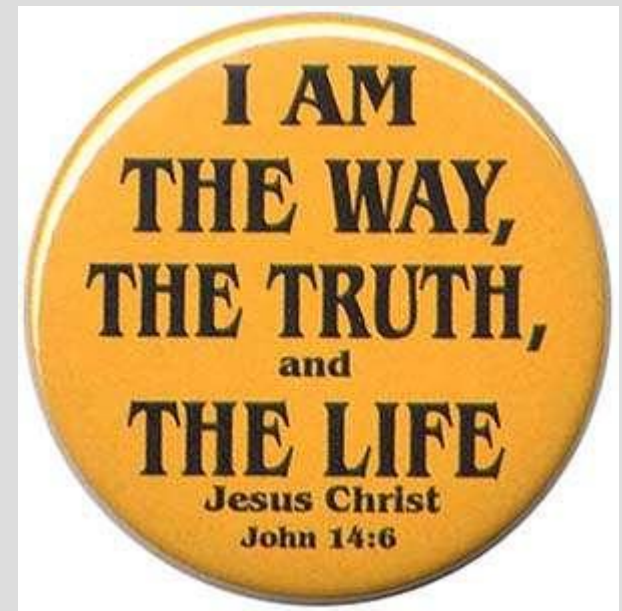
- Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop [530 – 546]

The conclusion of this period leads onto the **Second Step**, namely the **Election or Enrolment of Names** for the Catechumens and the **Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion** for the Candidates.

Period Summary

<u>Periods and Steps</u>	2nd Period = Period of the Catechumenate
<u>Titles Used</u>	Catechumens for those who are unbaptised ; Candidates for those who have been validly baptised in another Christian Faith
<u>General Theme</u>	Initial Formation in Christ
<u>Keyword /s</u>	Building
<u>Leading Party</u>	Catechist
<u>Length of Time / Dates</u>	Any extended period; from months to several years
<u>Aim</u>	A time of nurturing and growth of the Catechumens and Candidates faith and conversion to God and the Catholic Church
<u>Content</u>	Thorough formation and instruction into the fundamentals of the faith
<u>Rites</u>	<u>All</u> - Celebration of the Word; <u>Catechumens</u> - Minor Exorcisms and Blessings; <u>Candidates</u> - Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion

The Second Period: The Period of the Catechumenate



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