



“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

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)

Pg. 2

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

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

AREAS OF FAITH FORMATION IN THE PRE-CATECHUMENATE OF CHILDREN

Hospitality – hello, openness, comfort, friendly, inviting environment, genuine presence of team

Welcoming – formal welcome of the importance of their presence with us

Acceptance – each other accepting the other as sessions continue, trust develops

Listening – what is heard over time becomes part of each other's story

Teaching – laying the personal life next to the teaching of the Church, Jesus' story

Challenging – teaching brings challenges for change

Sharing – openness of sharing the emotions, negative or positive workings in life

Praying – prayer is needed, becomes a foot hold

Community – awareness of community support, shared events and life experiences

Sending – ritual of moving slowly through the process, each period, to the day when sent to be part of God's mission

REFLECT ON HOW YOU EVANGELIZE IN EACH OF THE FOUR PERIODS

PRE-CATECHUMENATE

How do you...

- Welcome newcomers to your community?
- Make new people feel at home?
- Invite inquirers to share about their life and experiences?
- Identify the issues these inquirers need to explore?
- Choose catechetical material appropriate to their needs and questions?
- Enable people in personal and communal prayer?
- Introduce the inquirers to parish life and responsibilities?
- Help people discern whether Catholicism and/or your parish is where God is calling them to be?
- Discern the willingness and ability to surrender which signals initial conversion and readiness for parish membership?

CATECHUMENATE

How do you...

- Use the Lectionary as the basis for ministerial formation?
- Offer healing and reconciliation of wounds?
- Involve the baptized and the catechumens in mutual faith-sharing?
- Enable the catechumens to lead their own study and prayer?
- Involve the catechumens in apostolic service?
- Offer spiritual direction?
- Discern readiness for baptismal ordination signified by the Rite of Election?

ENLIGHTENMENT AND PURIFICATION

How do you...

- Use Lent for the on-going healing of the entire community?
- Prepare the Elect for the Scrutinies?
- Fashion the Scrutinies to speak to your community's corporate blindness's and resistance to ministry?
- Ritually present the Our Father and The Creed?

THE TRIDUUM

How do you...

- Create a sense of the Three Days as one moment, centered around the baptismal experience?
- Integrate the Elect into the prayer and ritual action of each day in the Triduum?
- Provide for the Triduum to be a retreat experience for the Elect?
- Allow the liturgical symbols to speak with power?
- Open and close the triduum with the Elect/Neophytes?

MYSTAGOGY

How do you...

- Reflect with the Neophytes on their journey?
- Speak to the mission of their baptism?
- Celebrate the many faces of ministry alive in your community?
- Involve the Neophytes with all the baptized in public witness?
- Celebrate Pentecost as a parish community ablaze with ministerial work?

NEOPHYTE YEAR

How do you...

- Enable the Neophytes to continue gathering for support, faith-sharing, scripture study and prayer?
- Offer on-going support and formation in ministry?
- Gather the baptized for anniversary celebrations of their initiation?