



Go Make Disciples

A Formation process for ministers of Christian Initiation.

Fall in love, stay in love, it will decide everything.

Nothing is more practical than
finding God,
than falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.

Often attributed to Pedro Arrupe SJ the actual author is Father Geger SJ

Rationale

To provide Ministers of Christian Initiation (both for adults and children) with an opportunity to

- encounter Christ through listening and dialogue
- be changed through, with and in the movement of the Holy Spirit (conversion)
- grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as a model for all Christian initiation
- grow in appreciation of our local church as an evangelising and initiating community
- reimagine and discern the ministry of Christian Initiation in their parish and as a parish ministry
- reimagine the ministry of a Team where people 'lean into' each other's gifts and skills
- rest in a 'safe' place where all questions and insights are welcome
- deepen faith, hope and love
- enjoy good company

Content

Formation will include:

1. An exploration of the Rite that unfolds as follows:
 - i) The documents: *Christian Initiation, General Introduction* and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Introduction
 - ii) Evangelisation and The Rite of Acceptance
 - iii) Catechumenate and Rite of Election
 - iv) Purification and enlightenment, and Initiation
 - v) Mystagogy, Preparation of uncatechised adults for confirmation and eucharist, Reception of Baptised Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church (Candidates)
 - vi) Christian Initiation of: Children of a Catechetical Age; Adults in Exceptional Circumstances; A Person in danger of death
Conclusion
2. General reading on RCIA
3. Reflection on experience and the insights and questions emerging from participants

Timeline and Overview

Date, Time venue	Focus	Resources
<p>Session 1:</p>	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall process • Mystagogical Reflection – the central dynamic of the RCIA. • Questions and comments <p>Introductory documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Initiation, General Introduction p. x-xiv. • Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Introduction p. 3-12, p. 149-150 (children of catechetical age) <p>Note: the 'Introduction' continues throughout the book. e.g., 14-18, 37-41 etc.</p>	<p>Preparation Read the two documents as noted left.</p> <p>Follow-up Re-read the two documents in light of the conversation. <i>Pray Tell: Baptism A credential or Continuum of the Christian Journey</i></p>
<p>Session 2:</p>	<p>Evangelisation and Precatechumenate and The Rite of Acceptance</p>	<p>Preparation Read RCIA: Introduction p.13-18, 151 Rite of Acceptance p.20-35, 152-160</p> <p>Follow-up <i>RCIA's six keys to making lifelong disciples</i> by Nick Wagner</p> <p>Additional Reading Birmingham, <i>Year-round Catechumenate</i> p. 26-50 Wagner, <i>The Way of Faith</i>, p. 12-20, 47-54 O'Malley, <i>Divine Blessing</i>. p.15-56</p>
<p>Session 3:</p>	<p>Catechumenate and Rite of Election or Enrolment of Names</p>	<p>Preparation Read RCIA: Catechumenate Introduction p.37-41 Minor Exorcisms p.42-47 Blessings p. 48-51 Optional Rites p. 52-54 Presentations p.54</p>

		<p>Read RCIA: Rite of Election Introduction p.55-57 Rite of Election p.58-67</p> <p>Follow-up <i>Celebrating the Rites of the Catechumenate</i> by Elizabeth Harrington</p> <p>Additional Reading Birmingham, <i>Year-round Catechumenate</i>. p. 51-90 Wagner <i>The Way of Faith</i>, p. 21-26. p. 55-59 O'Malley, <i>Divine Blessing</i>. p.57-109</p>
Session 4:	Purification and enlightenment, and Christian Initiation	<p>Preparation Read RCIA: Purification and Enlightenment Introduction: p.69 - 71 and p.161 Rites: p.72-116 and p.162 -168 Initiation: Introduction: p.117-120 and p.169 Rites: p.122 -144 and p. 170 -184</p> <p>Follow-up</p> <p>Additional Reading Birmingham, p. 91-113 Wagner <i>The Way of Faith</i>, p. 27-37, 60 -72, 73 - 83 O'Malley, <i>Divine Blessing</i>. p.110 –124 <i>Baptism: A Credential on the continuation of a Journey.</i></p>
Session 5:	Period of Post Baptismal Mystagogy (catechesis) And Preparation of uncatechised adults for confirmation and eucharist And Reception of Baptised Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church (Candidates)	<p>Preparation Read RCIA: Period of Past Baptismal Mystagogy Introduction: p.145 -146 Team RCIA, <i>Mastering Mystagogy</i></p> <p>Read RCIA: Preparation of uncatechised adults for confirmation and eucharist Introduction: p.223 – 224</p>

		<p>Read RCIA: Reception of Baptised Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church (Candidates) Introduction: p. 225 - 227 Rites: p. 228 - 236</p> <p>Follow-up <i>Mastering Mystagogy</i> by Diana Macalintal</p> <p>Additional Reading Period of Past Baptismal Mystagogy Birmingham, <i>Year-round Catechumenate</i> p. 121-138 O'Malley, <i>Divine Blessing</i>. p.125 -134 Wagner, <i>The Way of Faith</i>, p. 38 – 43 Candidates and ... Wagner, <i>The Way of Faith</i>, p. 146 – 154 Tufano, Turner, Williamson. <i>Guide for Celebrating Christian Initiation with Adults</i>. p. 99ff Turner, P. <i>When other Christians become Catholic</i>. Team RCIA, <i>Mastering Mystagogy – Team RCIA Six keys to Making Lifelong Disciples 'Mystagogia' Chapter in Year-Round Catechumenate</i> by Mary Birmingham.</p>
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RCIA Part II Chapter 5. (p. 225) Document references:
 Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy – [Sacrosanctum Concilium](#)
[Decree on Ecumenism – Unitatis Redintegratio](#)
[Decree on Eastern Catholic Churches – Orientalium Ecclesiarum](#)

<p>Session 6:</p>	<p>Christian Initiation of: Children of a Catechetical Age; Adults in Exceptional Circumstances; A person in danger of death Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights, questions, ideas • Catch up with what people have missed 	<p>Preparation Read RCIA: Christian Initiation of Children of a Catechetical Age Introduction: p.149 -151, 161, 169. 185 Rites: p. 152-160, 162 – 168, 170 - 184 Read RCIA: Adults in Exceptional Circumstances Introduction: p. 187 – 189</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theological grounding: revelation/faith• Where to from here?	Read RCIA Rites: p. 190 - 206 Person in Danger of Death Introduction: p.208 - 221 Rites: p. 228 - 236
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Process for each session

Preparation: Participants will be invited to read and reflect on the relevant section ahead of the gatherings, so they are prepared to engage in listening and dialogue together.

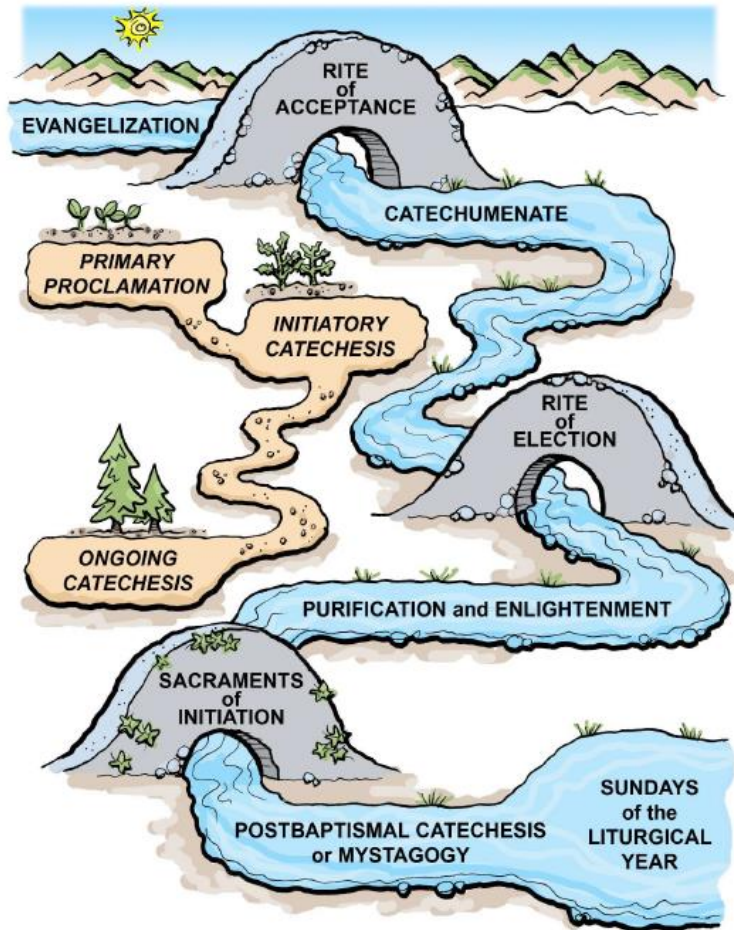
Gathering (3.5 hours)

Timeline	Focus	Process
1.00	Gathering, Introduction, organisation, recap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Introductions Organisation: Reflect on front page of formation process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What wisdom does the reflection bring to our understanding of Christian Initiation? How does it affirm and stretch your understanding of Christian Initiation? Rationale AND Content Timeline and overview on p 3-5 importance of pre-reading Process for each gathering p 6-7 based on Mystagogical Reflection
1.30	Prayer: Sunday Gospel or Liturgy Refer to sheets each week.	<p>Brief Introduction to Mystagogical Reflection process</p> <p>Listening to the Word in the Sunday Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happened? (Recollection) What did you notice? (Reflection) What does it mean? (Catechesis) Why does it matter to you/us? (Connection) How will you live differently as a result of what you heard? (Conversion) <p>Contemplation – rest in the presence of God.</p>
2.15	Listening and dialogue: Focused on the topic of the day.	<p>Mystagogical reading and reflection.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recollection: Few quiet minutes to skim over the text again. Reflection: What was it about? What was most engaging? Unsettling? Catechesis: What are we learning about Christian Initiation? Connection: What are the implications/imperatives for how we exercise the ministry of Christian Initiation in the parish? What might we need to change?

		Summary & Overview Principles & Summary Statement sheet p 9
(15 mins)	BREAK at appropriate time	
4.10	Concluding Reflection and blessing	What have you received from our gathering? What will you continue to ponder? What implications are emerging for discipleship and the ministry of Christian Initiation – RCIA and Sacraments of Initiation for Children – in your parish/community? What change are you feeling called to?
4.25	Organisation	Anything
	Before next Gathering	Pre-reading ... See p 3-5 Follow up and Additional reading p 3-5
	Blessing	Sunday Dismissals

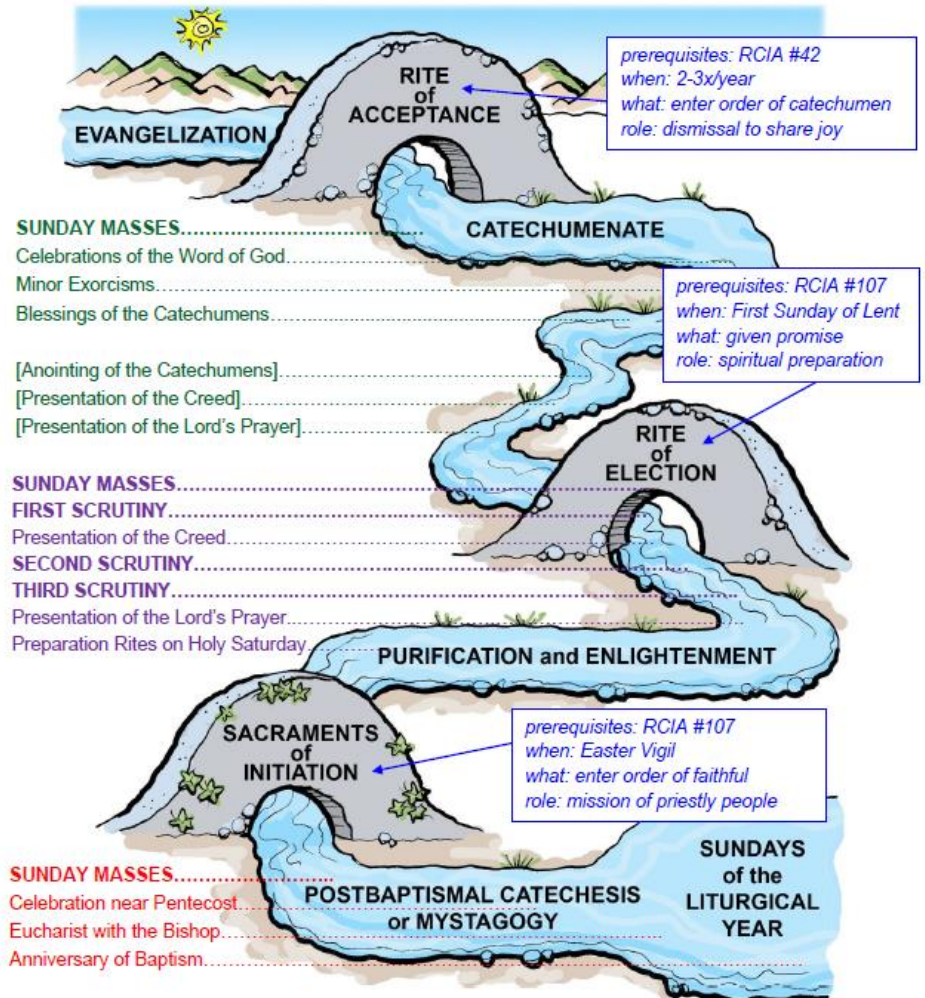
RCIA Process Overview

THE PATH FOR THE WAY OF FAITH: RITUAL AND CATECHETICAL



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THE RITES OF THE RCIA (AUSTRALIA)



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Six Keys to Making Lifelong Disciples



	Key principle of the RCIA (4-5)	How to put this into practice
1	"The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process..."	Believe that we are initiating every day of the year. Start by making every day a day for evangelization.
2	that takes place within the community of the faithful....	Use the activities of your parish as primary ways you form catechumens and candidates. Make your RCIA gatherings secondary to what your parish is already doing.
3	By joining the catechumens in reflecting on the value of the paschal mystery ...	Share your personal experience of the paschal mystery. Tell stories of your own dying and rising.
4	and by renewing their own conversion , the faithful provide an example that will help the catechumens to obey the Holy Spirit more generously....	Move from imparting knowledge to entering into intimacy with Jesus. Pay attention to what you see the Spirit doing in the lives of each catechumen and candidate.
5	The rite of initiation is suited to a spiritual journey of adults ...	Practice adult learning principles . With children, help their families teach them adult faith behaviors adapted for their maturity level. Don't short-change child catechumens with "RCIC."
6	that varies according to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the many forms of God's grace, • the free cooperation of the individuals, • the action of the Church, • and the circumstances of time and place." 	Attend to the specific needs of each person . Account for differences between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unbaptized • baptized uncatechized • and baptized catechized. Don't put people in the RCIA who don't belong in the RCIA.

Christian Initiation

is a journey into the mystery of God's love within the Church's tender care (RCIA a.95).
It begins in response to God's presence and prompting in the life of a person.
and takes place within the parish community, understood as 100% of Catholics.

The journey takes time and varies according to personal circumstance, the grace of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The community of faith meets people where they are and accompanies them through opportunities to encounter the mystery of Christ in life, prayer, scripture, liturgy and the life and mission of the parish community.

Encounters with Christ are the focus of reflection in search of what God is revealing and to discern its meaning for discipleship lived within the Catholic Tradition.

Christian Initiation is a paschal journey marked by conversion, discerning readiness to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation.

Those initiated continue to hold a place of honour in the community with accompaniment to continue in the first year after Initiation.

Resources

Liturgical Books

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. International Committee on English in the Liturgy. Approved for use in Australia by the Australian Episcopal Liturgical Commission Inc. Strathfield: St. Pauls Publication, 1986.

The Roman Missal. International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. London: The Catholic Truth Society, 2010

The Lectionary for Mass. International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. London: Collins Liturgical Publications, 1969, 1981, 1997.

All liturgical books can be accessed through LiturgyHelp

Web

Archdiocese of Melbourne: <https://www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/RCIA>

[Team RCIA](#)

[Christian Initiation Australia Network \(CIAN\)](#)

Documents

Pontifical Council for Promoting new Evangelisation. *Directory for Catechesis*, St. Paul's Publications. 2020.

Pope Paul VI [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#)

Pope Francis [Evangelii Gaudium](#)

Rite of Baptism for Children: Introduction (Available on LiturgyHelp)

Paul VI. *Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation*. August 15, 1971 (Available on LiturgyHelp)

The Order of Confirmation: Introduction May 2015 (Available on LiturgyHelp)

Books

RCIA

Anslinger, Leisa. *A Vision for Conversation: Eight Steps to Radically Change your RCIA Process*. Collegeville Minnesota, Liturgical Press, 2018

Birmingham, Mary. *Year – Round Catechumenate*. Chicago Il, Liturgy Training Publications, 2003, 2002.

Jerry Galipeau. *We Send you Forth. Dismissals for the RCIA*. Franklin Park, Illinois. World Library Publications. 2005. [Can be sourced through the publisher.]

Macalintal, D *Your Parish is the Curriculum* Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2018

O'Malley, Timothy. *Divine Blessing: Liturgical Formation in the RCIA*. Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2019

Steffen, Donna. *Discerning Disciples: Listening to God's Voice in Christian Initiation*. Chicago Il, Liturgy Training Publications, 2004.

Tufano, V, Turner, P, Todd Williamson, D. *Guide for celebrating Christian Initiation with Adults*. Chicago Il: Liturgy Training Publications, 2017.

Turner, P. *When other Christians become Catholic*. Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2007

Wagner, Nick. *The Way of Faith: A Field Guide for the RCIA Process*. . New London CT: Twenty-Third Publications. 2008.

_____ *The Heart of Faith: A Field Guide for Catechumens and Candidates*. New London CT: Twenty-Third Publications. 2010

_____ *Field Hospital Catechesis: The Core content of the RCIA*. Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2018

Mystagogy

Boselli, Goffredo. *The Spiritual meaning of the Liturgy*. Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2014

Cronin, Patrick J. *Encountering the Mystery of God: A Framework for Mystagogy from Easter to Pentecost*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipe & Stock Pub. 2013

Hughes, Kathleen. *A Mystagogy of Sacrament*. Chicago Il: Liturgy Training Publications, 1999

Ostdiek, Gilbert. *Mystagogy of the Eucharist: A Resource for Faith Formation*. Collegeville Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2014