

# Christian Initiation of Adults

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## Focus on the Rite—Rite of Acceptance Part II

*Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens* is the first formal step in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The RCIA speaks of this and of the other major rites of initiation as *thresholds* or *gateways*, because they mark a genuine transition or turning point in the journey of faith.

### The Rite

#### I. RECEIVING THE CANDIDATES

**Gathering**—candidates and sponsors gather in a place “outside the church or at some other site suitable for this rite” (RCIA, 48).

**Opening Dialogue**—the presiding minister begins a dialogue with each candidate by asking his or her name. The presiding minister then asks each of the candidates two questions regarding their desires.

**Candidates’ First Acceptance of the Gospel**—in the presence of the community, the presiding minister asks if they are ready to set out on this path, to live Christ’s way of love, to accept the teachings of the Gospel.

**Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly**—the RCIA stresses the critical role played by the community, and especially by sponsors, in the formation of new members.

October 21, 2009

RCL Benziger is sponsoring a workshop featuring their newest on-line resource

### *Apprentices in Faith*

Tuesday, November 17  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
St. Anselm Parish  
12670 Dunks Ferry Rd.  
Philadelphia 19154

Call Augustine at  
215-587-5630 to RSVP



### Initiation library

#### ***Christian Initiation of Older Children***

by Sandra Figgess, RSCJ

This revised and updated edition of *Preparing Older Children for Baptism* prepares non-baptized children of catechetical age, with the help of a parent, to become full members of the Church. While the content is primarily intended for non-baptized children, it could also be used to help boys and girls already baptized to complete their own Christian initiation.

Available through Liturgical Press.

**Signing of the Candidates with the Cross**—committed now to following the way of Christ, the candidates are claimed by him and signed with his cross.

**Invitation to the Celebration of the Word of God**—the rite of receiving the candidates concludes with the presiding minister’s invitation to the new catechumens to “come into the church, to share with us at the table of God’s word” (RCIA, 60). During the procession into the Church (or place where the liturgy of the word is celebrated), the assembly joins in singing a psalm or a hymn. The rite suggests selected verses from Psalm 34, with the antiphon, “Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” Often a simple repetitive response without any verses is the most effective song for a procession. Such a response makes participation easy for the assembly, as all continue to repeat the same response over and over again.

II. LITURGY OF THE WORD (continued in next newsletter)

(*RCIA, A Pastoral Liturgical Commentary*, pp. 46-47)