

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 (continued)

II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings and Homily—In keeping with the solemnity of the celebration, the readings should be proclaimed with conviction. Silence should be employed generously after the readings and homily.

Presentation of a Bible—after the homily, the RCIA provides an optional rite for presenting “a book containing the gospels” (RCIA, 64).

Intercessions for the Catechumens—As catechumens begin their period of formation in the Christian life, the assembly joins in a litany of prayer, structured like the general intercessions at Mass. Other petitions for the Church and the world may also be added if the Eucharist is to follow.

November 3, 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

Welcoming the New Catholic, Third Edition

By Ron Lewinski

How does a person become a member of the Catholic Church? Ron Lewinski offers a basic but thorough introduction to the Catholic Church's way of inviting people into conversion and welcoming them into membership in the Catholic communion. It is an excellent text for new and experienced initiation team members, clergy and for anyone who wishes to welcome new Catholics.

Available from Liturgical Training Publications

Dismissal of the Catechumens—whenever catechumens gather with the assembly for the celebration of God's word, they are ordinarily dismissed before the liturgy of the Eucharist (RCIA, 75.3). At the celebration of their initiation, they will join for the first time in the general intercessions and in the Eucharistic celebration.

Although catechumens are to be dismissed, they do not disperse. “With the help of some of the faithful, the catechumens remain together to share their joy and spiritual experiences” (RCIA, 67). It may be appropriate for catechists to lead the catechumens in a reflection on the rite they have just celebrated and on its implication for their journey of faith.

If the Rite of Acceptance is celebrated outside Mass, all are dismissed together, and an appropriate song is sung to conclude the celebration.

(RCIA, *A Pastoral Liturgical Commentary*, pp. 48-49)