

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

	First Period PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION and PRECATECHUMENATE	First Step RITE OF ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE	Second Period CATECHUMENATE	Second Step RITE OF ELECTION	Third Period PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT	Third Step SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION	Fourth Period MYSTAGOGY
Name	Inquirers or “well-disposed”		Catechumens		Elect		Neophytes
Aim	Awakening of faith	Acceptance into formal relationship with church	Deepen initial conversion; pass on church's tradition, teachings, prayer, way of life	Examine catechumens, declare them elected to the sacraments of initiation	Eliminate what is weak and sinful, affirm what is holy	To unite with Christ and his church	Celebration of faith, ministries, missioning
Content	Time to build trust, share personal stories, to proclaim message of salvation, foster initial conversion, introduce to parish life	First formal introduction, statement of intent, welcome	Time to deepen faith, conversion within the living community through catechesis, fellowship, prayer and worship, apostolic life	Questioning of godparents, declaration of election	Time for recollection, Lenten retreat, preparation for Easter sacraments	Full initiation	Deepening of sacramental life, emphasis on Gospel, Eucharist, mission
Time	Unlimited	Whenever candidate and community are ready; one or more times per year; when the community is gathered	One or more years	First Sunday of Lent preceding Easter Vigil at which they are to be baptized	Lent	Easter Vigil	Easter season One full year
Rites	no specific rites	questioning, first acceptance of gospel, signing of senses, welcome to liturgy of word (optional: giving of cross, gospels)	Celebrations of word, exorcisms, blessings, anointing (optional: presentation of Creed, Lord's Prayer)		Scrutinies, presentation of Creed and Lord's Prayer, Holy Saturday preparatory rites	Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist	Sunday Eucharist, celebration with bishop