
THE RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE IN THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



THEOLOGICAL AND PASTORAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA) rooted in ancient Christian practice
- The OCIA intends/continues to be a *process* rather than a *program*
- Spiritual journey of adults: three important *steps* shape the process
- Four distinct *periods* occur over sufficient and necessary time
- Precatechumenate period (i.e. first signs of conversion): team members listen and guide with love
- Conversion happens in God’s time and “by God’s power” OCIA n. 1)
- Reflection on religious experience (doing theology) brings depth of dimension to ordinary experience (see OCIA n. 43)
- Vatican II documents support the OCIA process
 - *Lumen gentium LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS* (promulgated 1964, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Pope [St.] Paul VI) “...bring the light of Christ to all...”
 - *Ad gentes TO THE NATIONS* (promulgated 1965, Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church, Pope [St.] Paul VI). Evangelization is one of the fundamental missions of the Church.
- OCIA is intended as a public process: formation of catechumens sows the seeds of renewed faith in all the baptized (ex. at worship, in the workplace, in families, during works of charity and outreach)
- The Church intends that those received as catechumens become her members
- Rite for Entrance into the Order of Catechumens (OCIA) parallels structure of Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (current RCIA)

ORGANIZATION OF THE RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE (OCIA)

Note: OCIA team/leader significant considerations for review, prior to celebrating the Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate

OCIA	Introduction n. 4
OCIA	Introduction n. 5 “free cooperation of individuals”
OCIA	Introduction n. 7 a,b,c,d
OCIA	Introduction n. 9, 10
OCIA	Introduction n. 17 (reminder)
OCIA	Introduction n. 20 (mentions role of the bishop and SC, pastoral perceptions/guidance and support)
OCIA	Introduction n. 41.1, 41.2 (catechize the People of God to the process)
OCIA	Introduction, n. 50 (section A- Legitimate or Customary Times)

RITUAL STEPS AND MOMENTS IN THE RITE

OCIA 68-72	General introduction
OCIA 70	Note “...active part in the celebration”
OCIA 73	Where candidates + sponsors gather, allows for entrance hymn
OCIA 74	Celebrant (priest or deacon) welcomes
OCIA 75	Initial dialogue
OCIA 76	Initial commitment
OCIA 78-81	Note for <i>bishop or Conference of bishops</i>
OCIA 82	Prayer follows initial commitment
OCIA 83-87	Pastoral considerations, Signing of the Senses
OCIA 88-89	Attention to a new name/cultural diversity/symbolic acts if needed, <i>Conference of bishops</i>
OCIA 90	Entrance (movement) toward being seated: chant/antiphon. Note: <u>gesture</u> of invitation
OCIA 91-93	Celebration of the Word of God Readings and Homily Presentation of Gospels (book + crosses optional)
OCIA 94	Intercessions (<u>for</u> catechumens, sponsors, congregation)
OCIA 95-96	Concluding prayer, dismissal of catechumens