

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS, ^{NO} 75

The **catechumenate** is a lengthy period for

- pastoral instruction
- the practice of appropriate disciplines
- so that the spiritual frame of mind of the catechumens is brought to maturity.

- **This is achieved by four ways:**

- 1) Catechesis

- divided into steps and fully presented
- suited to the liturgical year
- supported by Celebrations of the Word
- that leads them to a suitable knowledge of dogmas and precepts
- AND an intimate knowledge of the mystery of salvation, which they desire to make their own.

- 2) The life of the Community

- they grow accustomed to praying more easily to God
- witness to the faith
- keep an expectation of Christ in all things
- follow inspiration from above in their works
- show charity to their neighbor even to renunciation of themselves.

- 3) Liturgical Rites of the Church

- By which they are gradually cleansed and
- sustained with divine blessing.

- 4) Apostolic Life of the Church

- learn to cooperate actively in evangelization
- build up the Church by the testimony of their life and their profession of faith.