

Diocesan Resource Manual for Christian Initiation



**A Resource for the
Diocese of Tyler
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Contents

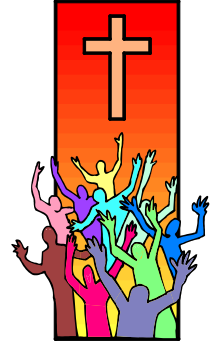
Introduction	Section I
Diocesan Christian Initiation Team	
What is Christian Initiation?	
What is the RCIA and what are its origins?	
What are the components of the RCIA?	
Stages	Section II
What does each stage look like?	
Catechetical	Section III
Catechetical Objectives	
<i>15 Goals from Diocesan Curriculum Guide</i>	
<i>Objectives for Catechumenate for Adults</i>	
<i>Objectives for Mystagogia for Adults</i>	
<i>Objectives for Initiation of Children</i>	
Sample Schedule of Topics and Lesson Plans	
Qualifications for Catechists	
Organizations/Relationship to Parish	Section IV
Liturgical Rituals	Section V
Spiritual Formation	Section VI
Resources and Materials	Section VII



Introduction

Diocesan Christian Initiation Team

The Diocesan Christian Initiation Team is composed of parish leaders dedicating their time and talent to a project initiated by Bishop Alvaro Corrada, S.J. in November, 2001. The purpose of the Team is to provide direction, guidance, supervision, training, and resources for the initiation of adults and children into the living parish community through the Sacraments.



One means to implement this project is the Christian Initiation (RCIA) process which catechizes and evangelizes individuals into the Catholic parish community. Integration into the life of the parish is an essential component of this process, one that often needs more emphasis.

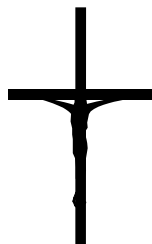
The Diocesan Christian Initiation Team will evaluate how parishes in the Diocese of Tyler are currently implementing the Christian Initiation (RCIA) process, will introduce models for enhancing this process, and will provide support and resources to assist in successfully integrating all individuals into the life of the parish by living the Paschal Mystery.

The Resource Manual for Christian Initiation explains the components of Christian Initiation and will suggest a model to utilize this process in re-evangelizing parish life. Questions or assistance may be directed to members of the Diocesan Team:



Linda Khirallah Porter, MTS - Chair
Deacon Trevor Wells, *St. Mary's, Longview*
Father Ariel Cortes, *Holy Cross, Pittsburg*
Sister Susan Seitz, OSF, *Cathedral, Tyler*
Mary Ann Cavitt, *Sacred Heart, Texarkana*
Ofelia Valdez, *St. Michael's, Mt. Pleasant*
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Deacon David Darby, *Sacred Heart, Nacogdoches*
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Teresa Darby, *Sacred Heart, Nacogdoches*
Peggy Hammett, *Cathedral, Tyler*
Father Gavin Vaverek, JCL, *St. Mary's, Longview* -
Consultant

Mission Statement: *“The Diocesan Christian Initiation Team is a resource that promotes enrichment of the RCIA in each community. This diocesan team assists parish teams both to integrate new members into the full sacramental life of the Church and to nurture their sense of being a part of the life of the Christian community.”*



They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. *Acts. 2:42*

Edited July 8, 2009 Parish Coordinators for Christian Initiation Teams

(If the coordinator has changed, please let me know. Thanks)

1.	Alto	Venerable Antonio Margil	Sr. C. Ponce
2.	Athens	St. Edwards	D. Finch
3.	Atlanta	St. Catherine of Siena	I. Webster
4.	Buffalo	Blessed Katerie Tekawitha	Mon. Rydelek
5.	Canton	St. Therese	J.Robinson
6.	Carthage	St. William Vercelli	D. Scholl
7.	Center	St. Theresa	Fr. Dinguis
8.	Centerville	St. Leo the Great	Dcn. Finegan
9.	Chandler	St. Boniface	S. Bunch
10.	Chireno	Our Lady of Lourdes	M. Ragland
11.	Clarksville	St. Joseph's no program	_____
12.	Cooper	St. Clare (no program)	_____
13.	Crockett	St. Francis of the Tejas	Dcn Romo /
			B& J. Grupa
14.	Daingerfield	Our Lady of Fatima	S. Stoermer
15.	Diboll	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Z. Enriquez
16.	Emory	St. John the Evangelist	David Nino
17.	Fairfield	St. Bernard of Clarivaux	Fr. Deveraj
18.	Flint	St. Mary Magdalene	Sr. Magdalena
19.	Frankston	St. Charles Borromeo	H.Laroux
20.	Gilmer	St. Francis of Assisi	J. Langston
21.	Grand Saline	St. Celestine	Dcn. Faber
22.	Gun Barrel City	St. Jude's	Fr. O'Dowd
23.	Hallsville	Our Lady of Grace	Dcn. Rhodes
24.	Hemphill	St. Pius I	Dcn. Horn
25.	Henderson	St. Jude's	Fr. Jay
26.	Hilltop Lakes	St. Thomas More	Dcn. Finegan
27.	Holly Lake	Holy Spirit	Dcn. Mullen
28.	Jacksonville	Our Lady of Sorrows	Y.Stabbs /
			Sr. C.Ponce (Sp)
29.	Jefferson	Immaculate Conception	J & R. Miller
30.	Kilgore	Christ the King	Sr. Luz Perez
31.	Lindale	Holy Family	J.Manganiello/ Dcn. King
32.	Longview	St. Anthony's	E. Esch
33.	Longview	St. Mary's	Dcn & Susan Wells
34.	Longview	St. Matthew's	J. Mangrum
35.	Lufkin	St. Andrew's	B. & D. Green
36.	Lufkin	St. Patrick's	B.Dunn/ G.Cordero (Sp)
37.	Madisonville	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Fr. Barone

38.	Malakoff	Mary Queen of Heaven	Fr. B. Palmer
39.	Marshall	St. Joseph's	C.Smith/M.Best/ J.Gonzalez (Sp)
40.	Mineola	St. Peter the Apostle	Dcn. Fisk
41.	Moral	Immaculate Conception	L. Austin
42.	Mt. Vernon	Sacred Heart	Dcn D Brown
43.	Mt. Pleasant	St. Michaels	A.Decious
44.	Nacogdoches	Our Lady of Guadalupe	V. Sifuentes
45.	Nacogdoches	Sacred Heart	M. Mocniak
46.	Nacogdoches	SFA	Fr.J.Thomas
47.	New Boston	St. Mary of the Cennacle	Dcn. O'Neill
48.	New Summerfield	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fr. Cortez
49.	Overton	Our Lady Queen of Angels	Dcn. Luscomb
50.	Palestine	Sacred Heart	D.Bunch/ F.Rivera (Sp)
51.	Paris	Our Lady of Victory	H. Ressler
52.	Pittsburg	Holy Cross	T. Garcia/
53.	Rusk	Sacred Heart	D. Odom
54.	San Augustine	St. Augustine	Dcn.Ragland
55.	Sulphur Springs	St. James	Dcn.&Besze D.&J.Ames /C. Shipp (Sp)
56.	Tatum	San Pedro the Fisherman	Dcn. J.Mireles
57.	Teague	St. Mary's	Fr. Jose Marin
58.	Timpson	Ephiphany (no programs)	_____
59.	Texarkana	Sacred Heart	M. Cavitt
60.	Trinity	Most Holy Trinity	D. Chessher
61.	Tyler	Cathedral/St. Paul	Sr. S. Seitz/ S. Pickett (Sp)
62.	Tyler	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Sr. C. Ponce
63.	Tyler	St. Peter Claver	Fr.Larrea
64.	Union Grove	St. Therese of the Infant Jesus	K. Mahaffey
65.	Waskom	St. Lawrence of Brindisi	L. Hughes
66.	Whitehouse	Prince of Peace	Fr. Dan/ Sr. M.Santoyo
67.	Wills Point	St. Luke's	T. Carreno
68.	Winnsboro	St. Ann's	Fr. Jose K

Parish Liaisons for Initiation ***Edited June, 2008***

The Diocesan Christian Initiation Team serves to resource, support and assist the parish teams in this ministry of initiating and integrating disciples for Jesus Christ in the Diocese of Tyler.

Individual members of the Diocesan team will act as liaisons between the parish teams and the diocesan team. Listed is the name of the Diocesan team member who will be the contact for your parish. Included is the name, address, phone number, and email if that is available. Feel free to ask questions, send comments, or just report good news to your liaison. The liaison member will be contacting you for input also and progress reports.

Diocesan Team

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Daingerfield

Mineola
Grand Saline
Emory
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Sulphur Springs/ Cooper
Paris / Clarksville

Chireno Hemphill
Moral
Center
Sacred Heart, Nacogdoches
San Augustine
St. Andrew, Lufkin

Linda Porter

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Sister Angelica and Sister Gabriela will work with the following parishes who are predominantly Spanish or have a large Hispanic community.

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Coordinator for Hispanic Christian
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OLG, Nac (Spanish)
Diboll (Spanish)
Tatum (Spanish)
Rusk/Alto
Whitehouse (English)
OLG, Tyler (Spanish)
St. Peter Claver, Tyler
Palestine (Spanish)

unassigned: Madisonville
 Buffalo
 Henderson
 New Summerfield
 Teague
 Timpson

Phases of Implementation

Explanation of Phases:

Phase I: All parishes have in place Easter 2003

1. Adult faith formation is an ongoing process in the parish.
2. Priest is supportive of implementing the Diocesan Christian Initiation process in the parish.
3. Begin use of Diocesan guidelines for Christian Initiation catechesis.
4. Begin training of catechists for Christian Initiation.
 5. The parish has formed a team; the team has come to training; and the team is in dialogue with the diocesan team.
 6. The parish community is being educated to participate in the Sacramental Preparation and the Christian Initiation process as a means of evangelizing the community
 7. Using the Rites of Christian Initiation for all those seeking Baptism over the age of 7 (Catechumens) and all those coming into full communion with the Catholic Church (candidates)

Phase II: All parishes have in place Easter 2004

1. Conscious and intentional efforts at integrating the Christian Initiation process into the life of the community.
2. Practice and instruction on the catechetical dimensions of the catechumenate period.
3. Developing a spiritual element to the Lenten season for teams, candidates and catechumens, and parish community.
4. Removing candidates for full communion from the Easter Vigil and create a procedure for year round celebrations.
5. Incorporating a year long mystagogia for all new Catholics
6. Use of all endorsed catechists for Christian Initiation instruction.

Phase III: All parishes have in place Easter 2005

1. Year round inquiry period.
2. Evaluate, assess, and enhance efforts begun in Phase I and II.
3. Assessment and enrichment of integration into the community of the process of Christian initiation.
4. Further development of discernment and procedure for Children's Initiation Ages 7-18.
5. Continued dialogue with the Diocesan Team and ongoing training of new parish team members.

Maintenance Session I:

1. Topics of interest: Comparative Religions
Whole Community Catechesis
Family Catechesis and the Christian Initiation Process
Mystagogical Success / Challenges
2. Integration of the three processes/ Parish Evaluation

Maintenance Session II:

1. Topics of Interest: Reception of minors into the Catholic Church as part of the household of faith: birth to 6 years old and 7-18
Rite of Election and Presentation for Recognition to the Bishop of Candidates and Elect
Update on developments of Confirmation prior to First Eucharist
2. Role of the parish team during the Year Round Inquiry
3. Ongoing training for new team members

**Topics Covered at Training Sessions - Christian Initiation
Diocese of Tyler**

Phase I Session I

June 1, 2002	Orientation of process and explanation of phases; theology of Sacrament
August 31, 2002	Make up session for those who did not attend June 1, 2002

Phase I Session II

November 9, 2002	Sacraments: Ritual and Symbols Review rituals in parish both liturgical and sacramental Overview of Rite of Christian Initiation Text Rite of Election Rite of Welcoming Presentation to Bishop Annulment Issues
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Phase I Session III

February 8, 2003	Celebrating Sacraments - revisit the ritual Music for Rituals Review Rite of Election and Presentation to Bishop Retreat Models for Lent Reconciliation Theology of Sacrament
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Phase II Session I

May 31, 2003	Spiritual element for Period of Enlightenment 15 Goals doctrinal catechesis Catechesis and formation - Stages of Faith development
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Phase II Session II

November 8, 2003	Curriculum Guide assessment (on 15 goals) Bulletin inserts for Lent Lenten program: Living the Mystery of Christ Discussion groups: Children's Initiation Year round inquiry Newcomers catch - up with process Parish involvement/participation GIRM - liturgy changes
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Phase II Session III

February 7, 2004	Discussion by deaneries on mystagogia plans Ten reasons why people return to the church Meaning of Mystagogy and how to use it as a model for adult faith formation Resources for lent Rite of Election and Presentation to Bishop - review and view video
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Presentation on process of Lenten program: Living the Mystery of Christ
Scrutinies

Phase III Session I
June 5, 2004

Marriage Preparation
Convalidations
Marriage Cases
Theology of Martrimony

Phase III Session II
November 13, 04

Mystagogical Catechesis at the Heart of the Initiating Community
Dr. Jerry Galipeau

Phase III Session III
January 29, 05

Evangelization, Father Bruce Nieli, CSP

Maintenance Session I
June 4, 2005

Comparative Religions
Whole Community Catechesis
Family Catechesis and the Christian Initiation Process
Mystagogical Success / Challenges
Integration of the three processes/ Parish Evaluation

Maintenance Session II
February 25, 2006

Reception of minors into the Catholic Church as part of the household of faith: birth to 6 years old
7-18
Role of the parish team during the Year Round Inquiry
Rite of Election and Presentation for Recognition to the Bishop of Candidates and Elect
Update on developments of Confirmation prior to First Eucharist

Ongoing Formation:

Annual In Service days will be provided two weeks prior to Lent each year beginning in 2007. Additionally, during the same year regional deanery formation days will be scheduled to provide updating, formation, training of new team members, and networking for parish teams in their geographic area.

All training session are available on videotape at the Office of Faith Formation in both English and Spanish.

What is Christian Initiation?

- Christian: Christian membership is rooted in baptism. This is important to keep in mind: **all the baptized are Christians** and are part of God's family, even if not fully initiated into the Catholic Church.
- Initiation: Initiation is the process of welcoming and forming new members into our community through the Sacraments. Full initiation comes from Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, as well as living in communion with the Catholic community.

What is the RCIA and what are its origins?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process marked with ritual components. While there is much written about the historical importance of the catechumenate and the process of initiating adults into the faith in the early Church, the immediate reason for our interest in the RCIA is to respond to the Second Vatican Council, where the bishops of the world reestablished the catechumenate as the process for Christian initiation.

- Rite: A religious function with its prescribed form, such as the rite of Baptism. (Often a collection of related rites will be published in a single book, sometimes called a ritual book.)
- Adults: These rites are intended for adults. An adult makes a personal act of faith by accepting initiation into the Catholic Church. (There are provisions made for children of catechetical age (7-18) who need more support in their faith journey.)



What Are the Components of the RCIA?

This process is both formational and educational. It is important to understand the term **to catechize** as distinct from the term **to teach**. In teaching, the objective is to *impart knowledge*. In catechizing, the objective is *faith formation*. This is done by personal witnessing and facilitating conversion, as well as by imparting knowledge.

There are four stages to RCIA: Pre-Catechumenate, Catechumenate, Purification/Enlightenment, and Mystagogia. These stages have three distinct focuses: evangelization/inquiry, faith formation, and mystagogia/integration into the life and story of the community. The stages require liturgical rituals. In addition, optional rituals may be used to enhance the process for those involved and for the parish community.

The process is implemented by a parish team who has been trained both in methodology and doctrine. The parish team is trained and guided by the Diocesan Christian Initiation Team.

STAGES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

What Does Each Stage Look Like?

Inquiry/Pre-Catechumenate Stage

This first period consists of **inquiry** on the part of the candidates and **evangelization** on the part of the Church. Faith begins to be awakened. This is a time to build trust, to share personal stories, to answer questions, to proclaim the message of salvation, to foster initial conversion, and to introduce the inquirer into parish life.

There is no set time allotted for this period. There are no specific rites. The period ends with the Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens.

Catechumenate Stage

This is a catechetical period for unbaptized people (CATECHUMENS) or baptized individuals (CANDIDATES) who are seeking to complete their initiation. For the unbaptized the beginning of the Catechumenate is marked by the Rite of Acceptance and it may last an indefinite period; it encompasses both catechesis and the Rites connected with catechesis. This stage ends on the day of Election. The baptized celebrate the Rite of Welcoming that begins the period of catechesis leading toward the completion of their sacramental initiation.

The aim of the catechumenate is to deepen a person's initial conversion and to pass on Catholic tradition. Both faith and conversion deepen within the living community through catechesis, which is based on the Liturgy of the Word, the life of the community, prayer and worship, and possible introduction into the apostolic life.

This time is greatly devoted to catechetics. The time should be lengthy enough, perhaps several years even, for the conversion and faith of the catechumens to become strong. There are specific rites associated with this period: celebrations of the word, blessings, minor exorcisms. In addition, other rites may be celebrated to mark the passage of the Catechumens from one level of catechesis to another: for example, anointings, presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer (which are also included in the next stage).

The prerequisite for making the next step is beginnings of spiritual life, as well as evidence that the fundamentals of Christian teaching have taken root. There should be the first stirrings of the spiritual life, a calling of God to prayer, a sense of Church, and some experience of the community. The formal Catechumenate culminates at the Rite of Election. The candidates are sent to the Bishop to be recognized.

Purification / Enlightenment

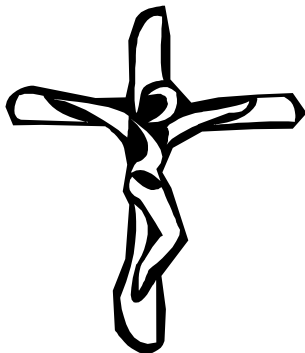
The unbaptized are now called the ELECT; the baptized are still called CANDIDATES. The emphasis of this Lenten time is more spiritual and more reflective than catechetical. This is a period for eliminating what is weak and sinful in their lives, and affirming what is holy. Catechesis is evident at retreats, days of recollection, and particularly final preparation for celebrating the sacraments of initiation. The individual should actively assist in purifying his/her mind and heart, in searching his/her own conscience and in doing penance. Lent is an appropriate time for this. The rites include: the Scrutinies, Presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, and the Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday.

Mystagogy or Post-Baptismal Catechesis

Those who have been fully-initiated are called NEOPHYTES. This period of catechesis is a time for the community and the NEOPHYTES together to deepen their sacramental life, with emphasis on the Gospel, the Eucharist, and the Christian Mission.

There are no specific rites associated with this period. The length of time suggested is one year from the time of initiation. Catechetical sessions continue and should emphasize lifelong formation. This is the period to closely monitor and encourage the full integration and incorporation of the individual into the life of the parish.

To close the period of post-baptismal catechesis, some celebration should be held, perhaps on or near Pentecost at the end of the neophyte year. It is recommended that a Sunday liturgy be celebrated with the Bishop within the anniversary of the initiation year, to give thanks to God, to share neophyte's spiritual journeys, and to renew their commitment to God and to His Church.



Training



Catechetical Objectives

Catechetical Objectives

What Should Be Taught At Each Stage

The objectives are based on the 15 goals which provide a basic overview of Catholic Doctrine to lay a foundation for faith formation in the individual. The 15 Goals are included in this section for easy reference.

Children:

Objectives for children are more general and distributed across the stages, as is appropriate to their development. The Diocesan Curriculum Guide should be referred to in Catechesis with children in the process of Christian Initiation. Such catechesis will have to be adapted to the age, experience, and family circumstances of each learner.

Adults:

Inquiry/Pre-Catechumenate

This stage is primarily focused on storytelling and sharing faith. It is not designed to cover a large volume of doctrine. Some doctrine can be shared during the time of breaking open the word during faith sharing sessions. It is a time for guidance and listening.

Catechumenate

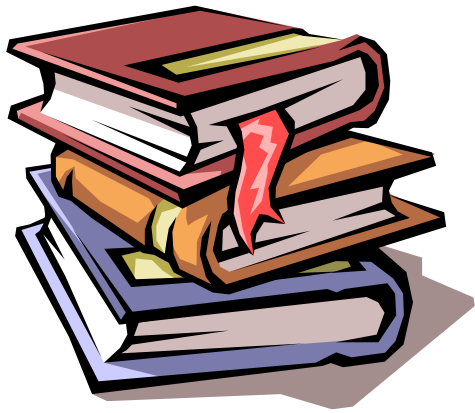
This stage is primarily pre-sacramental catechesis. Detailed objectives are provided for Adults during this stage.

Enlightenment/Purification

This stage is primarily focused on spiritual formation and growth in proximate preparation for reception of the sacraments of Christian Initiation. No catechetical objectives are provided for this period, but in working with particular individuals it may be necessary to continue formal catechesis during this period. Remember that the experience of prayer is, in itself, formative.

Mystagogy

This stage is primarily focused on post-Baptismal catechesis (or post-Confirmation). Specific objectives are included for this period for adults. These objectives may be met in a variety of formats, but the essential thing is that there is significant catechesis in this first year. Further, it is important the newly initiated are consciously being integrated into the life of the parish community. Both objectives can be met by including the neophytes along with parishioners in systematic adult faith formation opportunities.



The Fifteen Goals From the Curriculum Guide

The Fifteen Goals (Doctrines) taken from the Diocese of Tyler Curriculum Guide for Ages 4-18

Fifteen Goals have been ordered in a progression of systematic study of theology based on the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. There are rationales listed for each goal which constitute the validity for that goal. The rationales and concepts are excerpted from two resources: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) and *Dominus Jesus* (DJ). It is essential that the rationales and the key concepts listed under each goal are understood by the catechist and taught in order for the successful transmission of the faith.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

#1: Recognize God as Trinity.

Rationales:

< **CCC 234:** *The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith.*

< **CCC 240:** *Jesus revealed that God is Father. He is eternally Father in relation to His only Son. The Holy Spirit is sent to the Apostles and to the Church both by the Father in the nature of the Son, and by the Son in person.*

< **CCC 244:** *The sending of the person of the Spirit after Jesus' glorification reveals in its fullness the mystery of the Holy Trinity.*

< **DJ 5:** *In fact, it must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God who is the way the truth and the life, the full revelation of divine truth is given.*

#2: Present an understanding of the human need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on revelation and faith.

Rationales:

< **CCC 27:** *The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.*

- < *DJ 14: It must be firmly believed as a truth of Catholic faith that the universal salvific will of the One and Triune God is offered and accomplished once for all in the mystery of the incarnation, death, and resurrection of the Son of God.*

Essential concepts for understanding and teaching this goal.

- CCC 396 Man is dependent on his Creator and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom.
- CCC 397 Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart, and abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command.
- CCC 398 Man chose himself over God against the requirements of his creaturely status and against his own good.
- CCC 405 Original sin is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it; subject to ignorance, suffering, and the dominion of death; and inclined to sin- an inclination to evil that is called "concupiscence."
- CCC 407-409 The dramatic situation of the world makes the life of every man and woman a battle to go to heaven.
- CCC 1996-2005 Grace is participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his body.
- CCC 1849-1869 Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. The gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners.
- CCC 385-395 The Fall is the biblical revelation about the reality of sin in human history. It is a fall from God's friendship and grace which the first human beings had received not only for themselves but for the whole human race.
- CCC 387, 1730-1742 Freedom & Sin: Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for man can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another.
- CCC 1821, 2794 - 2796 Heaven is the full union of the human person with God and of all persons in God. Heaven is the perfect happiness that comes from sharing in God's divine life.
- CCC 1030-1032 Purgatory is the process through which we are cleansed or purged of the selfishness that keeps us even minimally separated from God.
- CCC 1030-1037 Hell is the experience of final alienation and estrangement from God, isolation and separation from all that is good. Hell is the experience of eternal punishment for grave and unrepented sin.

#3: Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

Rationales:

- < *CCC 90: The mutual connections between dogmas and their coherence can be found in the whole of the Revelation of the mystery of Christ. In Catholic*

doctrine there exists an order of “hierarchy” of truths, since they vary in their relation to the foundation of Christian faith.

< ***DJ 1: The Church’s universal mission is born from the command of Jesus Christ and is fulfilled in the course of the centuries in the proclamation of the mystery of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the mystery of the incarnation of the Son, as saving event for all of humanity.***

< ***DJ 5: It must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who is the way, the truth, and the life, the full revelation of divine truth is given.***

#4. Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Rationales:

< ***CCC 737: The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit.***

< ***DJ 13: The truth of the Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord and only Savior, who through the event of his incarnation, death and resurrection has brought the history of salvation to fulfillment, and which has in him its fullness and center, must be firmly believed as a constant element of the Church’s faith.***

< ***DJ 16: The Lord Jesus, the only Savior, did not only establish a simple community of disciples, but constituted the Church as a salvific mystery: he himself is in the Church and the Church is in him.***

#5: Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Rationale:

< ***CCC 97: Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God, in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all her riches.***

#6: Exercise responsibility as caretakers of creation as an expression of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

< ***CCC 307: To human beings God even gives the power of freely sharing in His providence by entrusting them with the responsibility of subduing the earth and having dominion over it. God thus enables men to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbor.***

CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

#7: Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

Rationales:

< *CCC 1129: The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation.*

< *CCC 1324: The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Christian life.*

#8: Demonstrate an understanding of the faith community as a sharing in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Rationale:

< *CCC 949: In the primitive community of Jerusalem, the disciples devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.*

<

LIFE IN CHRIST

#9: Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

Rationale:

< *CCC 1700: The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God.*

#10: Develop a moral conscience grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

< *CCC 1783: Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator.*

<

#11: Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

Rationale:

< *CCC 1694: Incorporated into Christ into Baptism, Christians are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” and so participate in the life of the Risen Lord.*

#12: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Rationale:

< CCC 1822: *Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.*

#13: Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

Rationale:

< CCC 1932: *The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. "As you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me."*

#14: Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel call.

Rationale:

< CCC 1270: *"Reborn as sons of God {the baptized} must profess before men the faith they have received from God through the Church" and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the People of God.*

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

#15: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

< CCC 2663: *In the living tradition of prayer, each Church proposes to its faithful, according to its historic, social, and cultural context, a language for prayer: words, melodies, gestures, iconography to God. The Magisterium of the Church has the task of discerning the fidelity of these ways of praying to the tradition of the apostolic faith, always in relation to Jesus Christ.*

Objectives
for
the



Catechumenate
for Adults

Catechumenate

Goal #1: Recognize God as Trinity.

1. To present the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, which is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life.
2. To present the ways we have of coming to know God through His revelation.
3. To present the role of the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Blessed Trinity and the reality of His presence to the Church at all times.

Goal #2: Present an understanding of the human need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on revelation and faith.

1. To present the reality that each person is created to share in a relationship with God which brings true freedom and happiness. Only God can give us true fulfillment.
2. To present the account of the fall of Adam and Eve and to describe how this sin has affected the whole human family.
3. To show the unfolding of God's love for His people and the preparations for the coming of Christ.
4. To explain the doctrine of the Incarnation and to show its impact on our understanding of redemption.
5. To come to a deeper realization of Jesus' self-emptying love, which brought us to reconciliation with God and to recognize that happiness in our lives is a participation in the very Paschal Love of Christ.
6. To present the Risen Christ as the principle and source of our future resurrection and that He is with us always.
7. To present the Catholic teaching on grace with particular attention to its intrinsic nature and capacity to transform the person to the likeness of God.

Goal #3: Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

1. To further examine our covenant relationship with God and in particular how the person nourishes and fosters their response of faith.

Goal #4. Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

1. To teach that the Catholic Church is the sole Church of Christ: through the Creed, we profess to be One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

Goal #5: Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life

1. To provide an understanding of the covenant relationship which begins in Baptism, having roots in the Old Testament, this faith takes into account God's initiative and the response of the person - faith.

Goal #6: Exercise responsibility as caretakers of creation as an expression of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. To present the very foundations of all God's saving plans through a look at the origins of all things and their proper ends.

Goal #7: Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

1. To give an understanding that Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life and that Confirmation is the completion of baptismal grace.

2. To teach that the Eucharist within Catholicism is the heart and the summit of the Church's life, for in it Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

3. To give an understanding of both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the meaning behind each of their separate sections.

4. To present the Catholic teaching on the two sacraments of healing: Penance and Reconciliation, and The Anointing of the Sick.

5. To present the vocation of marital love as expressed in the teaching of the Catholic Church on the Sacrament of Matrimony and the sixth and ninth commandments.

6. To present Holy Orders as a sacrament in the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles and directed towards the salvation of the People of God.

Goal #8: Demonstrate an understanding of the faith community as a sharing in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

1. To present the Catholic belief on Mary with specific clarification as to why Mary receives such a significant place in the treasury of the Church.
2. To recognize that Christ has proclaimed a universal call to holiness and to discover the authentic witness of the saints as models and intercessors.

Goal #9: Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

1. To focus on the dignity of the human which is at the heart of Catholic moral teaching. In the Incarnation of Jesus, every human life finds the fullness of meaning.

Goal #10: Develop a moral conscience grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ.

1. To understand the process of conscience formation and to recognize the dignity that comes from choosing the good and living a life of virtue.
2. To present the Commandments and their implications of belonging to God.
3. To understand the charity involved towards our neighbor as proposed by God in the last seven commandments.

Goal #11: Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

1. To present the whole of Christ's public life as a continual lesson of selfless love for every human being, seen in the eyes of God as a person bearing great dignity.

Goal #12: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

1. To understand the pastoral care of one's particular parish and the need to share that role through ministry, prayer, and other works of charity based on the concerns of the community.

Goal #13: Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

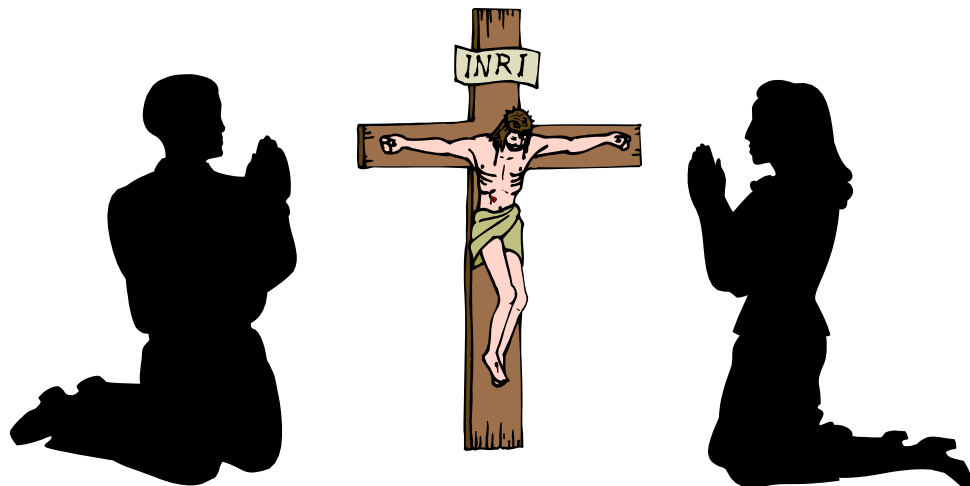
1. Identify the underlying social principles of Catholic Social Teaching. (CCC 1878-1885, 1905-1917, 1928-1942, 2419-2436)

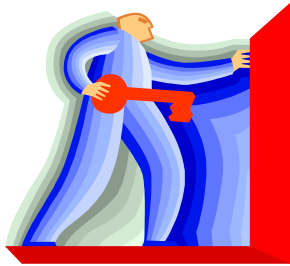
Goal #14: Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel call.)

1. Articulate their understanding of vocation as a response to their Baptismal call and its responsibilities. (CCC 1699-1700, 1272-1274)

Goal #15: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

1. To present the Church's teaching on the ways we can grow in our relationship with God through prayer.
2. To present the spiritual significance of praying the Our Father as a summary of the whole Gospel. Life which reflects this quality of living brings about the kingdom of God.





Objectives

for

Mystagogia

for Adults

Mystagogia or Post Baptismal Catechesis
(At least one year; Easter to Pentecost; then once a month for a year)

Goal #1: Recognize God as Trinity.

1. Develop an awareness of the way one's personal experience of God has developed and changed over the years.
2. Recognize the presence of the Spirit as ongoing in life and as giving a better understanding of the Father and Son as a result of that presence.
3. Situate a personal experience in the larger context of the way the faith community has described the journey with God.

Goal #2: Present an understanding of the human need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on revelation and faith.

1. Recognize that there is a diversity of individual responses to God, and that God's interaction and each response is unique based on the individual's situation and abilities.
2. Make the connection that our individual response means that we are whole only to the extent of our relationship with God, and that perfected wholeness is holiness.
3. Clarify the ways in which God reveals God's self to us.

Goal #3: Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

1. Explain the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed as the basic community faith statement of the Church, which flows with integrity out of Divine Revelation.
2. Explain the charism of infallibility of the Church and Magisterium in matters of faith and morals.
3. Articulate your own life experience to major points of the Creed as presented in the Tradition as dogma and doctrine.

Note: Good resource for this goal is Echoes of Faith Video: "I Believe, We Believe"

Goal #4: Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

1. Reflect on various models of the Church.
2. Demonstrate a variety of ways people participate as Church.
3. Reflect upon the Church as the “Communion of Saints.”

Goal #5: Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life

1. Develop a sense of the way Scripture was formed, structured, and transmitted.
2. Articulate Catholic approaches to understanding Sacred Scriptures.
3. Acquire some facility in using Scripture in personal prayer, group sharing, and public worship.

Note: Recommend using Echoes of Faith Video: “Introduction to the Scriptures”

Goal #6: Exercise responsibility as caretakers of creation as an expression of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. Explain one’s role of gratitude for creation by practicing stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.
2. Understand and articulate the role of the Sabbath.

Goal #7: Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

1. Summarize their understanding of the meaning of the sacrament as sign, symbol, and reality.
2. Celebrate Eucharist as the way in which we participate in, and become, the Body and Blood of Christ.
3. Understand the teaching of the Real Presence.
4. Express liturgy as the public participation of the people of God.

Goal #8: Demonstrate an understanding of the faith community as a sharing in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

1. Describe ways that individuals (Mary and the Saints, other Church heroes, contemporary persons) have been signs of the presence of God in their lives.
2. Discuss the importance of the family as the “domestic church.”

Goal #9: Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

1. Define sin and describe its relationship with human dignity and human relationships.
2. Express the relationship of human freedom and the morality of human acts.
3. Analyze the role of conscience in making personal and community decisions.

Goal #10: Develop a moral conscience grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ.

1. Articulate morality as responsible relationships that are described by moral law.
2. Outline the process of decision making and explain how that brings about discernment of proper action.
3. Re-examine the freedom of the human person and the reality of sin, and articulate the role that conscience plays in moral decision making.

Note: Recommend resource Echoes of Faith Video: “Catholic Morality.”

Goal #11: Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

1. Illustrate how they are living out their lives as a response to their Baptismal call wherever they find themselves in society.
2. Articulate an understanding of the single state, the married state, the vowed religious state, and the priesthood as distinctive ways of responding to God’s call.

Goal #12: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

1. Describe the role of sin in interpersonal relationships.
2. Understand that all of human life is sacred, and articulate the need for personal and community respect for life.

Goal #13: Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

1. Explain the relationship of individual good and the common good, based on the principles of human dignity.
2. Recognize that prejudice and discrimination because of race, sex, color, religion, language, social conditions, etc. as a violation of these principles.

Goal #14: Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel call.)

1. Articulate their service (especially volunteer service) as part of their discipleship (stewardship).
2. Understand and address the global need in third world or developing nations to discern the universal common good, in areas of ecology, distribution of wealth, stewardship of resources.

Goal #15: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

1. Define the meaning of prayer as the individual person perceives it.
 2. Identify and experience different ways of praying.
 3. Develop a habit of praying the Liturgy of the Hours.
- Note: Recommend resource Echoes of Faith Video: "Prayer and Spirituality."

Objectives for Initiation of Children (Ages 4-18)



Learning Objectives for Christian Initiation of Children of Primary, Intermediate, Upper Level Ages 4-18

Inquiry

Learning Objectives

- to identify our unique qualities
- to identify good qualities in others
- to learn qualities of Jesus
- to choose good qualities to develop in ourselves

Catechumenate

Learning Objectives

- to express an understanding of how we show love
- to realize that God chooses us to be God's children and loves unconditionally
- to name the gifts of God in our life
- to understand how rules help us live together happily
- to learn that the cross identifies us with Jesus
- to learn the Beatitudes
- to learn how to live the Beatitudes in every day life
- to name ways we are changing by learning new things
- to appreciate how our godparents help us learn about God
- to learn how Zacchaeus changed because of Jesus
- to express our desire to change to become more loving and kind
- to express our desire to be initiated into the Church

Mystagogy

Learning Objectives

- to identify the symbols and rituals of our daily life
- to understand the meaning of sacraments
- to learn the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church
- to understand the rituals of initiation
- to understand that initiation means commitment
- to perceive that "Church" is a belonging to God and to each other
- to realize that to receive the Sacraments of Initiation is to make the commitment to the Christian community
- to understand the responsibility of participation in worship and in activities of the Church
- to recognize and appreciate the role of parents, guardians, godparents, and the faith community



Sample

Catechetical

Lessons

Sample 1 - Catechetical Lessons for Children for Christian Initiation: Resource:
“Children’s Catechumenate” Brown Roa Publisher (lessons are adapted for each
age level)

Primary Level, Intermediate Level, Upper Level

Inquiry

Unit One: Belonging to God and to One Another

1. The Uniqueness of Each Person
2. God’s Unconditional Love
3. Jesus - Gift of Love
4. Church - Being a Member

Catechumenate

Unit Two: Living the Jesus Way of Life

1. Jesus teaches us to pray
2. Jesus teaches us to forgive
3. Jesus teaches us to share

Unit Three: Sharing New Life in Jesus

1. The meaning of the cross
2. The forgiveness of sin in baptism
3. The promise of new life forever

Unit Four: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist: Path to Christian Initiation

1. The link between Baptism and Confirmation
2. The link between Baptism and Eucharist
3. Initiation is forever

Mystagogy

Unit Five: The Sacraments of Initiation

1. Understanding the Symbols and Rituals of Initiation
2. Initiation, Easter, New Life
3. The Role of Parents, Godparents and the Community

Possible format:

Opening Prayer

Life Experience

Faith Story

Sample 2 - Catechetical lessons

Resource: "Exploring Our Catholic Faith" Rev. John Pollard

Format: Scripture Reflection

Pre-Catechumenate

Revelation
Faith
Grace
Human Life
Personal Conscience
Prayer

Introduction

Study Questions with doctrine
Questions for Group Reflection
Questions for Personal Reflection
Prayer

Catechumenate

Faith
God
Jesus
Bible
Church
Morality
Sacraments in General

Enlightenment & Purification

The Holy Spirit
Mary
The Future
Sin
Prayer
Other Catholic Practices

Mystgogia

Revelation
Faith
Holy Spirit
Bible
Church
The Future
Lay Ministry
Baptism
Confirmation
Holy Eucharist
Reconciliation
Anointing of Sick
Marriage
Holy Orders

Sample 3 - Catechetical lessons

Resource: "Journey of Faith" Liguori

This is lectionary based catechesis. The leader's book tells you which lesson to use with each Sunday reading.

Inquiry or Pre-Catechumenate

Journey of Faith
What do Catholics Believe
What is the Meaning of Mass
Bible
How do Catholics Interpret the Bible
The Saints
Mary
Places in the Catholic Church
Who's Who in the Church
Catholics and Prayer
Catholic Practices
Catholics and Church

Catechumenate

The Sacraments
The Sacraments of Baptism
The Sacrament of Confirmation
The Eucharist
The Sacrament of Penance
The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
The Sacrament of Holy Orders
The People of God
Who is Jesus Christ
The Early Church
Christian Moral Living
Social Justice
The Consistent Life Ethic
The Dignity of Life

Lent- Purification and Enlightenment

What is Lent
Saying Yes to Jesus
Take a Look -Scrutinies
The Nicene Creed
The Way of the Cross
The Lord's Prayer

The Meaning of Holy Week
Catechumenate Retreat Day

Mystagogia

Conversion: A Lifelong Process
The Laity: Called to Build God's Kingdom
Your Special Gifts - Ministries
Family Life
Your Prayer Life
Discernment - Decision Making
Holiness
Evangelization

Format for Sunday Session during Catechumenate period

30 minutes	Liturgy - all gather in Church; dismissal after Prayers of Faithful
10 minutes	Refreshments and settle in
15 minutes	Prayer and reflection - where are we at this moment?
45 minutes	Re-read, reflect upon, and share the Scriptures - either all or the one chosen for this lesson. Spouses and sponsors can join this session as Eucharist ends.
10 minutes	Evaluation and prayer - how are we going to live the Scripture this week?

Note: During Inquiry or Mystagogy this format may be adapted for a session following Sunday liturgy or for a weekday evening session.

Qualifications for Christian Initiation Catechists



Qualifications for Catechists for Christian Initiation



Anyone who is presenting sessions in formation for candidates and catechumens should be endorsed as a catechist through the Office of Religious Education. This endorsement program is to enable the individual to be formed both in methodology and in doctrine.

Two requirements should be completed before a person presents a session in the parish Christian Initiation process. Upon completion of these two requirements, the catechist will receive a certificate from the Office of Religious Education endorsing him /her as a qualified catechist for Christian Initiation for the Diocese of Tyler.

I. Beginning and Basic Catechist Endorsement

II. Diocesan Christian Initiation Training Days

These requirements are further explained.

I. Beginning and Basic Catechist Endorsement - Below is a list of requirement for these two endorsements taken from the Handbook for Adult Religious Education (LIFE program) and Ministry Endorsement, issued, 1994 and revised, August, 2009 Every person engaged in handing on the faith in any parish program (e.g. RCIA, religious formation, sacramental preparation, small group studies, etc. should be endorsed.) The Beginning Endorsement is intended to provide the minimum training for anyone to catechize in a parish program without supervision.

*** Catechist Endorsement Awards are issued upon completion of a particular level and requested through the Office of Religious Education.***

II. Diocesan Christian Initiation Training Days

These training days will review the Christian Initiation Resource Manual for the Diocese, present adult faith formation techniques, and help prepare catechists for the topics and sessions which should be part of the catechetical component for the parish Christian Initiation Process.

Catechist Endorsement Levels

Beginning Catechist Endorsement:

1. Completion of 12 hours of the Foundation LIFE Level
(i.e. LIFE course - Basic Elements of the Christian Message Course, attendance for one year in catechetical sessions for Christian Initiation, DeSales Study -6 hours on Scripture, 6 hours Theology. These are a few examples. Others may be submitted.)
2. Catechetics: 12 hours (effective January, 2004)
 - a. E1 - Echoes of Faith: Getting Started as a Catechist (2 hours)
 - b. E2 - Echoes of Faith: Role of the Catechist (2 hours)
 - c. E3 - Echoes of Faith: Person of the Catechist (2 hours)
 - d. E4 - Echoes of Faith Module - Introduction to the Learner - (4 hours)
 - e. E5 - Echoes of Faith Methods: (2 hours depending on the grade level or another catechetical workshop.)

* Professional Teaching Certificate will replace the credits for the 12 hours of Catechetics for this level. Echoes may be viewed for the Basic Catechetical Level. A copy of the teaching certificate is to be sent to the Office of Faith Formation.
3. Training on the *Guidelines for the Ethics and Integrity for Church Personnel, signed Code of Ethics, and submitted Criminal Background Check Release to Business Office.* (ACS - applicant is approved on website)
4. Curriculum Guide Training for Ages 4-18 or Christian Initiation Curriculum. (CG - 3 hours)
5. Personal faith experience: retreat, cursillo, prayer group marriage encounter, renew experience, day of recollection.
6. One year of religious education teaching experience (This may coincide with study time.)
7. Endorsement requirement at this level should be completed within one year period.
The endorsement is valid for a period of 3 years at which time the next level should be done.

Basic Catechist Endorsement:

1. Completion of the Beginning Catechist Endorsement.
2. Completion of the Basic LIFE Level
6 hours Sacraments

6 hours Church
6 hours Old Testament
6 hours New Testament
6 hours electives

3. Catechetics: 15 additional hours (limit 5 hours /topic) See “Areas of Study - Catechetics” (See p. 11)
4. Personal Faith experience: retreat, cursillo, day of recollection, renew experience, prayer group, marriage encounter.
5. One additional year of religious education teaching experience (This may coincide with study time.)
6. Endorsement requirements for this level should be completed within a 3 year period. The endorsement is valid for 3 years, at which time the next level should be completed.

Intermediate Catechist Endorsement:

1. Completion of the Basic Catechist Endorsement.
2. Completion of the Intermediate LIFE Level - See “Adult Faith Formation” (See p.4-5) .
3. Catechetics: 12 additional hours (Diversity in topics is encouraged) See “Areas of Study - Catechetics” (See p. 11) These hours should be at an intermediate level, requiring some outside reading and some type of reflection.
4. Personal Faith experience: retreat, cursillo, day of recollection, prayer group, marriage encounter
5. An additional year of religious education teaching experience (This may coincide with study time.)
6. Endorsement requirement should be completed within a 3 year period. The endorsement is valid for an additional 3 years, at which time the Advanced Level should have been completed.

Advanced Catechist Endorsement:

1. Completion of the Intermediate Catechist Endorsement.

2. Completion of Advanced LIFE Level - See- "Adult Faith Formation" (See p. 4-5)

3. Catechetics: 20 hours -

(6) hours Echoes of Faith Plus Adult Faith Formation Module

(2) credits for day long presentation on Liturgical Renewal Process

(2) credits for day long presentation on Christian Initiation Process

(2) credits for day long presentation on Call to Holiness and Discipleship Process

(2) credits for day long presentation on the New Evangelization

(6) hours for Adult Faith Formation classes taught (see description below)

4. Personal Faith experience: retreat, cursillo, day of recollection, renew experience, prayer group, marriage encounter

5. An additional year of religious education teaching experience. (This may coincide with study time.)

6. Endorsement requirements should be completed within a 3 year period.

Endorsement is valid for 3 years, renewable upon completion of 15 additional hours.

*** (6) credit hours for Adult Faith Formation Classes: At this level requirements are expected to include: A two hour presentation on some aspect of the doctrine of the Catholic Church for adults should be submitted. Preparations, materials used, evaluation, and personal reflection should be included in the project report. Include the location, and number of attendees. Choose **TWO** of the following:

1. Lesson plan for a particular group using the Curriculum Guide for a basis on a doctrine of the faith; teach the lesson; evaluate the lesson; and submit a typed reflection of the plans, procedures, and materials used.

2. A presentation to a practicing Catholic adult audience for faith formation teaching on a specific doctrine.

3. A presentation to a group of parents seeking to present their child as part of a sacramental preparation program.

4. A presentation on a doctrine of faith to a group of non-Catholics seeking full communion into the Church through the Christian Initiation process. (Maybe non-Christians or non-Catholics seeking full communion.)

Submit information for credits to: Office of Religious Education. Upon satisfactory completion of this requirement 6 hours for Advanced Catechetics will be awarded.

4. Personal Faith experience: retreat, cursillo, day of recollection, renew experience, prayer group, marriage encounter

5. An additional year of religious education teaching experience. (This may coincide with study time.)

6. Endorsement requirements should be completed within a 3 year period.
Endorsement is valid for 3 years, renewable upon completion of 15 additional hours.

****The Advanced Catechist Endorsement requires 9 hours of catechetics. At this level requirements are expected to include: A two hour presentation on some aspect of the doctrine of the Catholic Church for adults should be submitted. Preparations, materials used, evaluation, and personal reflection should be included in the project report. Include the location, and number of attendees. Choose **TWO** of the following:**

1. Lesson plan for a particular group using the Curriculum Guide for a basis on a doctrine of the faith; teach the lesson; evaluate the lesson; and submit a typed reflection of the plans, procedures, and materials used.
2. A presentation to a practicing Catholic adult audience for faith formation teaching on a specific doctrine.
3. A presentation to a group of parents seeking to present their child as part of a sacramental preparation program.
4. A presentation on a doctrine of faith to a group of non-Catholics seeking full communion into the Church through the Christian Initiation process. (Maybe non-Christians or non-Catholics seeking full communion.)

Submit information for credits to: Office of Religious Education. Upon satisfactory completion of this requirement 9 hours for Advanced Catechetics will be awarded.

***Specializations

For those interested in being endorsed in a specialized area, the Beginning and Basic Endorsements must be completed first. Currently there are three areas for specialization as options which are offered to satisfy the 12 hours for Intermediate Catechist at the

Intermediate Endorsement Level. Note the Christian Initiation Specialization has been removed since there are other requirements for that in the Diocesan Resource Manual for Christian Initiation.

1. Sacramental Preparation Specialization

a. (6 hours) Presentation Session

Directions: Plan, present, and evaluate a training session for a particular sacrament: Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Confirmation. Prepare the session, list objectives, time, materials, audio-visuals, handouts, outline of session. Present the session. Evaluate the session as to what worked, what didn't. Briefly give a report of the session from your own perspective.

Choose two from the list below:

- a. Parent session
- b. Family session
- c. Couples
- d. Candidates

b. (6 hours) Additional workshops of interest listed from "Areas of Study-Catechetics" (See p. 11)

2. Adult Faith Formation Leader Specialization

a. (3 hours) Read the book: *Lifelong Learning: The Adult Chapter*. Write a one page reflection on what you learned.

b. (3 hours) Attend a training session on how to facilitate a study group learning proper techniques, including various learning styles for adults.

c. (6 hours) Additional workshops of interest listed from "Areas of Study - Catechetics" (See p. 11)

*Organization / Relationship of the Parish
Initiation Team*



Objective #1: **To educate and enrich the parish's understanding of their role in Christian Initiation.**

- Action:**
1. Provide information on resources for use in their parish: i.e. pulpit announcements, bulletin inserts, outlines / materials for sessions at various levels.
 2. Present models for parish team formation.
 3. Identify and list qualifications for ministries within Christian Initiation and invite parishioners to discern their call and to respond.

Objective # 2: **To assess the individual needs of the inquirers for initiation and for integration into parish life.**

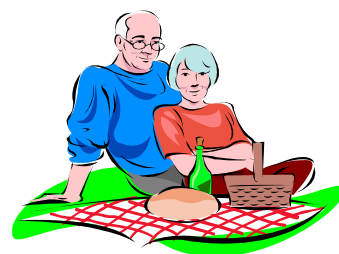
- Action:**
1. Provide guidelines for an initial interview of inquirer.
 2. Identify specific needs of inquirers and the resources in the parish available for appropriate responses.
 3. Develop models of reflection and or evaluation tools for candidates at stages along their journey.

Objective # 3: To prepare parish sponsors for their role of accompanying candidates.

- Action:
1. Suggest orientation format and in-service materials for sponsor formation.
 2. Provide an evaluation tool(s) to help sponsors assess their effectiveness.

Objective # 4: To expand levels and types of involvement with individuals and groups.

- Action:
1. Parishioners invite inquirers, candidates, catechumens, neophytes to accompany them to liturgy, parish, and organization activities.
 2. Organizations and groups host education and service sessions for members of Christian Initiation at different stages of their journey.



Activities or Strategies

The following strategies or activities are suggestions for use with the objectives listed above. Some may be used over again during the process. Some may be more useful during specific stages of the process. Each year the Diocesan Christian Initiation Team will offer some opportunity for parishes to receive information through a workshop session and or through written materials. Additional activities or strategies may be added to this list.

1. Inquirers should have an initial interview with a team member.
2. Personal introductions of the inquirer and the team could be done during a gathering. This can be done in small groups of new inquirers as they come throughout the year.
3. Team members should welcome inquirers as they gather at each session.
4. Identify those who do not know anyone in the parish and make a contact with someone who will accompany that person to a weekend liturgy.
5. Periodically, change seating arrangements so there is the opportunity for everyone to get to know one another.
6. Tour of parish campus - church, office, library, etc. so the inquirer feels comfortable in all areas.
7. Identify areas in which inquirers live and encourage those who live in the same area (neighbors) to contact them.
8. Neophytes from previous years can host current group and share what the process was like for them. Invite them to celebration of Rites and Sacraments of current catechumens and candidates.

9. Sponsors accompany candidates/catechumens to sessions and to various parish activities.
10. Arrange for spiritual role with homebound and with youth preparing for sacraments.
11. Invite parish to days of renewal, retreats with candidates and catechumens.
12. During the Purification and Enlightenment Period, display photos, list of names, addresses, phone numbers as bulletin inserts or on boards
13. Encourage parishioners to pray, send notes to candidates / catechumens.
14. Incorporate the candidates and catechumens into the Prayers for the Faithful.
15. Have coffee and refreshments after the rites and invite the parish to meet the candidates.
16. Neophytes should be encouraged to attend ongoing formation in the parish in the coming years.

Liturgical/Ritual Component

Parish Level Components

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the understanding and implementation of basic liturgical principles using official documents as the guide
2. Provide training, materials and follow-up to address weaknesses and enhance strengths at each parish, working with clergy and lay ministers
3. Establish schedule of periodic follow-ups at the parishes to reinforce suggested changes and provide encouragement and on-going evaluation.
4. Assessment of the implementation of the Rites, provide training to supplement Diocesan training programs.
5. Parishes provide feedback and help identify areas of need.

Implementation:

1. Teams will be assisted by the diocesan contact who will provide tools for evaluation and offer support in developing evaluation reports.
2. Diocesan training workshops will provide liturgical catechesis to support parish teams.

Liturgical/Ritual Component

Diocesan Workshop Components

Each component provides the basis for the succeeding component. Each will have the adult initiation process as the ultimate goal. Each component will be directed at clergy, initiation team members and liturgical ministers.

Ritual and the Pascal Mystery

The Holy Mass – Summit and Font

The Holy Mass – Sacrament and Ritual within the Mass

Pre-catechumenate and Liturgy

Catechumenate and Liturgy

Purification and Enlightenment and Liturgy

Mystagogy and Liturgy

Fullness of Catholic Life and Liturgy

Spiritual Formation

The Christian Initiation Team has the opportunity to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in strengthening the atmosphere of spirituality for those attempting to enrich the Christian Initiation process, making it an integral part of parish life. Thus, it is with the intention of helping the entire parish grow spiritually these objectives should be addressed.

“The Period of Purification and Enlightenment, which the rite of election begins, customarily coincides with Lent. In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent the reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for its reception, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community, in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation. For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery.” (RCIA, 138)

“This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior.” (RCIA, 139)

Objective #1: **Faith formation is achieved through spiritual encounters and opportunities.**

Action: 1. Introduce daily prayer, such as the Holy Rosary, and especially the Liturgy of the Hours

2. Make annual retreats as a parish, a team, a faith group, in special ministries.
3. Renew liturgy as the most important form of prayer.
4. Encourage gatherings with couples to share life experiences and prayer.

Objective #2: Catechesis and formation should introduce and enhance styles of prayer.

- Action:
1. Catechists and liturgical ministers should be trained as leaders of prayer.
 2. Ritual prayers used in the initiation process should be introduced and used by the entire parish community as a tool for catechizing.
 3. Each session should always begin and end with prayer.

Objective #3: Encourage appropriate piety and devotions during the Enlightenment period.

- Action:
1. Faith-sharing groups similar to Disciples in Mission, Ashes to Fire, or some other reflective study series can be encouraged for the entire parish.
 2. Groups focused on service opportunities can come together before and after projects to reflect, pray, and develop relationships with one another through action.

3. Parish wide days of renewal and retreats with catechumens and candidates at some stages for their journey.

Objective # 4 Create opportunities for formation through Christian asceticism, adoration, prayer.

Action: 1. Mission programs, Reconciliation services, Stations of the Cross, studies of the lives of the saints are opportunities for parishes to participate in prayer.

2. General exposure to the history of and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe will assist in uniting the parish community through understanding Hispanic spirituality.

Objective # 5 Identify resources to promote spirituality.

Action: 1. Request Diocesan Religious Education Office materials.

2. Attend training days for catechetical and liturgical leaders.

3. Offer a model for deanery - level retreats and networking.

4. Focus on creating spiritual growth for the Parish Initiation Team.

5. Become familiar with other resources in the diocese: Wellspring - Tyler, Cloistered Dominicans - Lufkin, Hermitage - Palestine.

Implementation:

1. Include sessions on spiritual formation at least once a year at the Diocesan level.
2. Deanery-level contact persons should get feedback on what individual teams are doing during the Enlightenment and Purification period.
3. Deanery-level contacts should develop an evaluation form for parish teams to fill out each year, as to what activities are taking place throughout the year for spiritual formation in the entire parish.

Materials Available from the Office of Religious Education

As you implement the Christian Initiation process in your parish community, the following materials may be useful in assisting you. Resources consist of -

1. Video Cassettes
2. Programs with leader's guides, participant workbooks, tapes, etc.
3. Magazines, Periodicals
4. Course outlines for Diocesan LIFE (Lifelong Individual Faith Enrichment) courses.
- *5. Catholic Update Newsletter on various topics
- *6. Audio Cassettes
- *7. Books

Resources may be checked out for a one-month period. At that end of that time, a one-month renewal is allowed. There are no fees for checking out materials. However, following the two-month time period, all materials must be returned to the Office of Religious Education or an invoice will be sent for their replacement.

For your information, the following pages consist of a listing of each of the major categories, with titles of topics.

The audio cassettes, books, and Catholic Updates deal with many topics on liturgy, religious education, ministry, RCIA, sacraments, training, scripture, theology, etc. Listing of those titles are is not currently available, however, they are available for check-out at the Chancery.

Video - Cassette Tapes

Liturgies of the Triduum Easter Vigil (55 min), Liturgy Training
Publication

This is the Night (30 minutes), Liturgy Training Publications

Good Friday (30 minutes), Liturgy Training Publications

Holy Thursday (30 minutes), Liturgy Training Publications

History of the Mass, Liturgy Training Publications

The Roman Catholic Mass Today, Liturgy Training Publications

Introduction to Liturgy Series, Twenty-Third Publications

part 1 Liturgy as Sacrament

part 2 Liturgy as Dialogue

part 3 Liturgy as Communal Worship

part 4 Liturgy of the Word

part 5 Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Season: A Time to Remember (20 minutes- for families),
Twenty-Third Publications

Lent: A Time to Forgive (20 minutes - for families), Twenty-Third
Publications

Bishop Carmody: Keynote at Ministries Conference on Liturgy (45
minutes)

Journey to Easter: A Lenten Program (90 minutes - 7 segments- for
families), Franciscan Communication

Father Gavin Vaverek - Vestments, Mass, Beatitudes

Catholic Update Series, St. Anthony Messenger
Adult Baptism- Explaining its Meaning (30 minutes)
Sacrament of Confirmation (48 minutes)
A Walk Through the Mass (30 minutes)
Understanding the Sacraments (33 minutes)
Eucharist Celebrating Christ Present (30 minutes)
The God Who Reconciles (39 minutes)

Catechumenate for Children Tape I (five 15 minute segments),
RCL (formerly under Tabor)

Catechumenate for Children Tape II (four 15 minute segments),
RCL (formerly under Tabor)

RCIA: Journey Through Easter, Brown Roa

Becoming an RCIA Sponsor (45 minutes), Paulist Press

Tour of our Parish Church (grades 2-8) 12 minutes, St. Anthony
Messenger Press

Barnabas: The RCIA Sponsor (30 minutes), Brown Roa

Persons, Places, and Practices in the Catholic Church (18 minutes),
Liguori

The Last Supper (33 minutes) (Palm Sunday - Holy Thursday),
Brown Roa

***Additional Videos are available on various topics for Adult
Faith Enrichment which may also be used for RCIA. Only topics
are listed, not titles.

1. "What Catholics Believe About" Series
2. Father Michael Himes - theology and scripture topics
3. Sacraments
4. Prayer

5. Spirituality
6. Morality
7. Family Life Issues
8. Saints
9. Scripture

Check website at www.dioceseoftyler.org
Faith Formation Link for additional resources online as of June,
2008

Programs for Christian Initiation /Adult Faith Formation
These may include leader's guide, workbooks, tapes, and / or
participant booklets

DeSales Scripture and Theology Study

Little Rock Scripture

Catholic Life

Teachings of Christ

Journey of Faith

Foundations in Faith

Our Catholic Identity

Breaking Open the Catechism

Follow Me Discipleship

Mystagogia (9 session)

Catholic Vision

Basic Catholic Catechism Course

Denver Catholic Biblical School Program

What Catholics Believe booklets

FIRE (Family Intergenerational Religious Education)

Seasons of Faith

Adult Faith Enrichments (booklets on topics)

Echoes of Faith (five doctrinal modules)

Scripture from Scratch

Catholic Basics: A Pastoral Ministry Series (8 booklets on topics),
Loyola Press

Magazines and Periodicals

1. What it Means to be a Catholic
2. The Catholic Church: Who Are We?
3. Understanding Catholicism
4. A Time to Heal, A Time to Listen (Resource Directory for Reaching out to Inactive Catholics)
5. Lectionary for Small Groups
6. Quest (Scripture reflection for small groups)
7. What Catholics Believe
8. Catholic Worship
9. How Catholics Live
10. The Bible Today
11. Welcome to Our Open House (booklet)

Appendix I - issued Fall, 2008

1. Diocesan Spanish Training Team

Diocesan Christian Initiation Training Team (Spanish)
Equipo Diocesano Entrenador para la Iniciacion Cristiana (Español)
As of April 2008 – desde Abril 2008

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Angela D. Perez 2720 Paul Ave. Lufkin, TX 75901 (936) 639 - 3573	Lufkin
José Perez 2720 Paul Ave. Lufkin, TX 75901 (936) 639 – 3573 or (903) 671 – 9171	Lufkin
Rosa Perez 2720 Paul Ave. Lufkin, TX 75901 (936-639-3573)	Lufkin updated April, 2008