

# Christian Initiation of Adults

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## Focus on the Rite—Welcoming Baptized Christians Part II

### Pastoral Formation of Baptized but Uncatechized Candidates

The appropriate pastoral formation of candidates baptized either in the Catholic Church or in another Christian community depends on the extent to which they have been previously catechized. Many of them will benefit greatly from a process that includes elements of catechumenal formation, even including the celebration of appropriate rites to mark their growth in the Christian life and their gradual incorporation into an active role in the life in the Church. The U.S. edition of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults contains a number of such rites which have been adapted from those that are used for catechumens. When catechumens and candidates are present at the same ritual celebration, the US edition also provides combined rites which carefully distinguish between the two groups.

The formation of uncatechized candidates, while respecting their baptism, is based on the principles found in the RCIA. The focus of the process is on conversion, although this conversion is based on baptism already received. The process takes time, proceeding step by step. The journey of candidates takes place not in isolation, but within the community. The role of the sponsors is very important for the formation of candidates, for sponsors present them to the community, and then accompany and support them on their way.

July 7, 2009

## Focus on Initiation

### Orientation seminars for new coordinators/team members

Thursday, July 30, 2009  
from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Office Center, this orientation will feature an overview of the RCIA. Registration form can be found on the Archdiocesan RCIA webpage.



### Initiation library

*Apprentices in Faith*  
from **RCL**

Your online resource for program resources for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This resource offers you the flexibility to accommodate RCIA processes of any start date and duration. Full site with First Quarter downloads available July 2009.

Visit [apprenticesinfaith.com](http://apprenticesinfaith.com) for more information.

### Questions to think about in the process

1. In your parish, are most of the adults seeking entrance into the Catholic Church baptized or unbaptized? Are they treated differently in the formation process and in ritual celebrations? Are baptized candidates aware of their baptism and of the relationship they already have to the Church?
2. Why should baptized candidates not be referred to as “converts” or treated as catechumens?
3. Are the unbaptized and baptized called to different kinds of conversion? In what ways might they be the same or different?
4. What is the difference between a catechized and uncatechized adult candidate?

*(RCIA: A Pastoral Liturgical Commentary)*