

# Christian Initiation of Adults

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## Focus on the Rite—Welcoming the inquirers (unbaptized)

### Prayer

As inquirers are engaged in a dialogue of evangelization and inquiry in the midst of the community, the rite also directs that they are to be helped “with prayers suited to them” (*RCIA*, no. 40). Even during this initial period prayer ought to play an integral role.

**The period of the precatechumenate is a time when inquirers may become familiar with the various elements of common prayer: song, reading from Scripture, silence, intercession.** In order to make the prayer an integral part of the precatechumenate, many communities include a brief but significant time for prayer at the beginning or end of each inquiry gathering. Parish liturgy planners might be called upon to provide models for these prayer services, which include elements of liturgical prayer mentioned above. These prayer times should always be simple enough that they are genuinely suited to the inquirers.

### Discernment of Readiness for the Catechumenate

At their entrance into the catechumenate, inquirers will be asked to express their initial conversion by making a first acceptance of the Gospel. They will be signed with the cross and then admitted to a place in the liturgical assembly where they will join the community on a regular basis for the celebration of God’s word.

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### **Institute for Christian Initiation**

Beginning this October, the Archdiocese will inaugurate the *Institute for Christian Initiation*. This certificate program will provide a thorough introduction to the richness and complexity of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

A brochure for this program is available on-line at the Archdiocesan RCIA webpage.



### Initiation library

*The RCIA Journey... A Resource for the Catechumenate*

By Deborah M. Jones

This catechumenate resource is an invaluable aid for faith-sharing sessions with catechumens and candidates. It covers the key teachings of the Catholic faith and offers opportunities for discussion and exploration. Excellent for RCIA teams as well.

ISBN: 0-89622-741-3

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Some questions that inquirers and pastoral ministers might consider in the discernment of readiness to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens might include: Have they met the living Christ in the Gospel and in the life and witness of the Christian community? Have they been moved to turn their lives toward Christ and to become part of the Christian community? Are they ready to deepen their relationship to Christ, especially by embracing the cross in their lives day by day? Are they ready to live their discipleship as part of a community?

### Reflection questions

**What is the place of prayer during the precatechumenate?  
When are inquirers ready to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Catechumenate?**

(*RCIA: A Pastoral Liturgical Commentary*, pp. 39, 40)