



*During this time those inquiring are introduced to the parish through a microcosm of the Church that is the initiation team. Here they meet Christians strong in faith, hope, and charity who widen the "tent pegs" of their hearts and lives to welcome all who would "come and see."*

## The Period of Evangelization & Precatechumenate

*(Teaching to the Rites: see RCIA 52 and 511)*

**The Gospel message ~ Christ-centered, Trinitarian, ecclesial, personal, and forward-looking (founded in hope):**

- ✠ God is our Creator and in him all things have their existence
- ✠ God gives light to everyone who comes into this world, revealing himself through his works, so that all may learn to give thanks
- ✠ The Father has sent his faithful witness, Jesus Christ, to announce to us what he has seen and heard, the mysteries of Heaven and earth
- ✠ This is eternal life: to know the one true God and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent; the Trinity is our destiny and model of perfect love
- ✠ Jesus Christ has made the way for us to take advantage of that plan by his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension into Heaven
- ✠ The Holy Spirit makes it possible to access the full power and merits won for us by Jesus in the Church, which dispenses them in the sanctifying action of the sacramental life, enabling us to make the mind of Christ our own, to love God and neighbor in holiness
- ✠ The Catholics of this parish family warmly invite you to come and see our life and with us to enter into full communion with Christ

**The primary and most effective means of communicating these truths are:**

- ✠ The witness of the individual living in accordance with the Gospel message
- ✠ The witness of the Christian community as the kingdom of God on earth

**The Catechetical components of this period are:**

- The Gospel expressed carefully and completely, by means of testimonies and explanation of Scripture
- Answers given to the most pressing and obvious questions of the inquirers
- Teachings which adequately prepare them for the first major Rites and content of the process, and the living of a daily Catholic life of believing, hoping, and loving (faith, hope, and charity)
- The Christian community modeled in the microcosm of the team, and a gradual introduction to works of charity

*In justice, great care must be taken that the most troubling or difficult questions get answered for each inquirer, so that there will be no surprises after the commitment is made in the first Rites.*

# The Rites of Acceptance and Rite of Welcoming

After this first “gateway” is entered, the catechumens and candidates are in a formal relation with the Church. At each catechetical session they may be given anointings, blessings, and/or minor exorcisms (depending on their baptismal status). All catechesis should be done in the context of celebrations of the Word. (see RCIA 81-105)



## The Period of the Catechumenate

*(Teaching to the Rites: see RCIA 552, 553 and 556 † Teaching from the Rites: see RCIA 526, 527 and 528)*

This is the longest period of the Christian initiation process. It is also the most densely catechetical. The principal guidelines for this period are found in RCIA 75 and 78:

A suitable catechesis is provided by priests or deacons, or by catechists and others of the faithful (RCIA 75):

- ✦ Planned to be gradual and complete in its coverage
- ✦ Accommodated to the liturgical year
- ✦ Solidly supported by celebrations of the Word

This catechesis leads the catechumens [and candidates] not only to an appropriate acquaintance with dogmas and precepts, but also to a profound sense of the mystery of salvation in which they desire to participate.

The instruction that participants receive during this period should (RCIA 78, see also RCIA, National Statutes 7):

- ⊗ Present Catholic teaching in its entirety
- ⊗ Enlighten faith
- ⊗ Direct the heart toward God
- ⊗ Foster participation in the liturgy
- ⊗ Inspire apostolic activity
- ⊗ Nurture a life completely in accord with the spirit of Christ

**The Catechetical Components of this period are the elements of the Deposit of Faith:**

There is only time to present the “keys” to unlock the basic doctrines of the Deposit of Faith as they are found in Scripture and Tradition. A good guide for these “keys” is the *Credo of the People of God* by Pope Paul VI. As well, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is the “sure norm” for teaching the Deposit of Faith. It should be the constant reference for the catechist. (see CCC 89)

Presuming a complete precatechumenal catechesis, the organization of the truths of the faith can be done along the paradigm for the adult Catholic life:

- ⌘ Faith
- ⌘ Hope
- ⌘ Love