

**Suggested Elements for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

**THEME:** To engage non-Catholic adults in an intentional process of faith and conversion leading to individual resolutions to live lives in accordance with Catholic teaching pleasing to God..

<b><u>Initial Interview:</u></b>	<p>Important to know who the candidates are, their faith background, annulments, impediments and current devotional life. _____</p> <p>Give candidates an overview of what the process entails, expectations, etc. _____</p> <p>Catechumenate questionnaire (intake form) assists in this. (see <i>Resources</i>) _____</p>
<b><u>The Three Stages:</u></b>	<p>Precatechumenate –a period for building trust and proclaiming the message of salvation focusing on God’s Revelation of Himself in Scripture and Tradition.(see attached.) _____</p> <p>Catechumenate -a period for deepening faith and continuing conversion with an emphasis on the Sacraments and Sacramental Living.(see attached) _____</p> <p>Purification and Enlightenment –a final period for preparing for Initiation into the Sacraments using the Cycle A readings for catechesis and focusing on virtue and beatitude.(see attached) Penitential Rite during this period. _____</p>
<b><u>The Three Rites:</u></b>	<p>Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming –concludes the precatechumenate period. _____</p> <p>First public declaration of intent to join the Church. _____</p> <p>Offered usually in the parish. _____</p> <p>Rite of Acceptance is for catechumens (unbaptized) _____</p> <p>Rite of Welcoming is for candidates (baptized) _____</p> <p>Rite of Election –concludes catechumenate period and is offered on the First Sunday of Lent. _____</p> <p>Begins with Rite of Sending in Parish and concludes with Election Rite at the Cathedral.(No Mass) _____</p> <p>Unbaptized referred to as Elect after this. _____</p> <p>Rite of Initiation –held at Easter Vigil Mass. _____</p> <p>Full rites for the unbaptized. _____</p> <p>Full reception into the Church for baptized.(1 or 2 Sacraments) _____</p>
<b><u>Sponsors and Saints:</u></b>	<p>Must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. _____</p> <p>Sponsors should be invited to attend all sessions but often can’t make it. Designate specific sessions if possible. _____</p> <p>Each candidate/catechumen should choose a Confirmation saint. _____</p>
<b><u>Mystagogy:</u></b>	<p>A time after Easter to assist individuals in deepening their sacramental life through prayer and good works. _____</p>

**Sample RCIA Coursework Outline**

**Texts:** It is suggested a basic text from a reputable publishing company such as Penock's, "This is Our Faith" be utilized to supplement class discussion..

<b><u>Precatechumenate:</u></b> <b><u>(ten sessions)</u></b>	The Fall and God's Plan of Salvation.	_____
	The Ten Commandments	_____
	The Holy Trinity.	_____
	The Incarnation.	_____
	Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection.	_____
	Scripture and Tradition.	_____
	The Four Marks of the Church and the Structure of the Church.	_____
	Prayer.	_____
	The Sacrament of Marriage/Sexuality/Contraception	_____

**Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming.**

<b><u>Catechumenate:</u></b> <b><u>(seven sessions)</u></b>	Definition of Sacrament/Matter and Form.	_____
	The Sacrament of Baptism,	_____
	The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. (two sessions, include structure of the Mass).	_____
	The Sacraments of Healing –Confession and Anointing.	_____
	The Sacrament of Holy Orders. (one session)	_____
	Mary and the Communion of Saints.	_____

**Rite of Election**

<b><u>Purification and Enlightenment</u></b> <b><u>(six sessions)</u></b>	The Two Greatest Commandments.	_____
	The Cardinal and Theological Virtues.	_____
	The Beatitudes.	_____
	Contrition and Metanoia.(In conjunction with Penitential Rite)	_____
	The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.	_____

**Rite of Initiation**

<b><u>Mystagogy:</u></b> <b><u>(varies)</u></b>	Depending on the Liturgical calendar, a period of at least several sessions after Easter is suggested.	_____
	A video series on prayer, further examination of the Mass, or some other suitable Bible study may be offered to help transition new members into the full life of the Church.	_____
	Also, during this time members should be encouraged to begin participating in the various ministries of the Church.	_____

**Additional Possible  
Components:**

Witness Talks from members from past RCIA classes.

Opportunities for service at soup kitchens, food pantries, etc.

Potlucks with family and friends to foster community.

Inviting leaders in other ministries –i.e. ushers, extraordinary ministers to the sick, etc.-to come and discuss the ways in which they serve the Lord.(Particularly during the phases of Purification and/or Mystagogy.