

Catechesis and the Catechumenate (RCIA) before the Easter Vigil

INQUIRY PERIOD (*before the Rite of Acceptance / Welcome*)

...this is the time for **INFORMAL CATECHESIS**: EVANGELIZATION

...Goal: + help the Inquirer prepare for the Rite of Acceptance / Rite of Welcome
+ Initial conversion

...Effective Tools:

- + **STORYTELLING / WITNESSING** – personal stories / bible stories / Church & parish stories
- + Church Tour
- + Introduction to the Liturgical Year and life of prayer
- + Hospitality

...Topics:

- + the “*Jesus Story*” - the “*Christian Way of Life*” (informal introduction)

CATECHUMENTE PERIOD (*after the Rite of Acceptance / Welcome*)

...this is the time for **FORMAL CATECHESIS**: PASTORAL FORMATION

...Goal: + help the Catechumen / Candidate prepare for the Rite of Election / Call to Continuing Conversion
+ Enliven / mature their Initial conversion

...Effective Tools:

- + **Liturgy of the Word** at Sunday Mass
- + **Breaking Open of the Word** ...reflecting on the Sunday Reading (**Faith Sharing**)
- + **Catechetical Session** ..Presentation of Catholic Doctrine based on the Sunday Readings
- + **Minor Rites and Apostolic Service**
- + **Reflection with Appointed RCIA Sponsor**

...Topics – from the **LITURGICAL YEAR** – Weekly Sunday Liturgy of the Word.

Some major topics that will arise throughout the Liturgical Year: comes from NCD: Sharing the Light of Faith, Chapter 5

- + Mystery of the One God (Holy Trinity)
- + Creation (God as Father)
- + Jesus (nature, mission, salvation)
- + Holy Spirit (presence, mission)
- + The Church (origins, titles, mission)
- + The Sacraments (general meaning, the 7 sacraments)
- + Life of Grace (original sin, personal sin, grace, conversion, repentance)
- + The Moral Life (call to holiness, conscience, Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, the sermon on the mount)
- + Mary and the Communion of Saints
- + Death, Judgment and Eternity

ENLIGHTENMENT PERIOD (LENT) (*After the Rite of Election / Calling*)

...this is the time for more Formation in Spiritual Life: SPIRITUAL FORMATION

...Goal: + help the Elect / Candidate prepare for the Easter Vigil Celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist
+ Deepen Conversion

...Effective Tools:

- + **Liturgy of the Word** at Sunday Mass
- + **Breaking Open of the Word** ...reflecting on the Sunday Reading (**Faith Sharing**)
- + **Catechetical Session** ..Prayerful reflection on Catholic Doctrine based on the Sunday Readings
- + **Scrutinies or Sacrament of Reconciliation and Apostolic Service**
- + **Retreat / Day of Prayer and Reflection**

...Topics:

- + Sin and Forgiveness, Mercy, Compassion, Spiritual Renewal, Prayer
- + Presentation of the Creed (Nicene or Apostle)
- + Presentation of the Our Father