

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS  
CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES**

Because the RCIA is not a nine-month academic program but a process “suited to a spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God’s grace, the free cooperation of the individuals, the action of the Church, and the circumstances of time and place” (RCIA no. 5), there is not a list of approved textbooks.

The Rite calls for the each individual to receive comprehensive catechesis on Catholic doctrine and moral life, as well as suitable pastoral formation. While providing guidance aimed at forming them in the Christian Life that should extend at least a full liturgical year.

Does the Office of Worship recommend a particular curriculum or textbook for use in the parish RCIA process? Because the emphasis should be on forming the individual and not the group, a variety of resources should be used.

From the National Directory on Catechesis, these areas can be explored in the course of ONE full year and can be discussed in context of the Sunday scriptures and the liturgical year.

- Mystery of the One God (The Trinity)
- The Mystery of Salvation
- Jesus the Christ
- The Kingdom of God
- Creation (Original Sin, Incarnation, and Grace)
- The Holy Spirit
- The Church (Sacrament of the Risen Christ)
- The Seven Sacraments (Graced Encounters with the risen Christ)
- Morality and Social Justice (Sin, Freedom, Vulnerability, Grace, Love, Forgiveness)
- Mary and the Saints
- Eschatology (death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind)
- The nature, rites, and symbols of the liturgy

The one required text for Parish Initiation Ministers is the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Study Edition**.

Diocese of Salt Lake City Pastoral Directives - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, no. 4

“The ICEL text of Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults with the U.S. appendix is an essential text for those involved in implementing the rite in parishes. Members of the RCIA team should have a copy of the Study edition of this text to follow throughout the process. A ritual edition of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is required for the presider/leader to use during the celebration of the rites.

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Study Edition**, by Liturgy Training Publications

This study edition of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* includes the complete text of the rite, along with additional rites for approved US dioceses; acclamations, hymns, and songs; and the National Statutes for the Catechumenate. Printed in the same size, with identical pagination to LTP’s Ritual Edition, this book is designed for priests, deacons, seminarians, theology students, and all those involved in the RCIA. A comprehensive introduction to the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* provides readers with foundational knowledge of the parish catechumenate. With ample margins for notes, sturdy but flexible binding, and clearly numbered paragraphs in the introductions and text, this edition is ideal for study, reflection, and preparation of liturgy. Because RCIA is a process and there is not a list of approved textbooks each coordinator should work with their pastor to find the resources that best suit their parish needs.

## **PACKAGED PROGRAMS (include leader's manuals and participant guides)**

### **Foundations in Faith** RCL Benziger Publications

Foundations in Faith resources help you blend spiritual and catechetical formation throughout all periods and rites of the RCIA. In addition to individual manuals for leaders, and catechist participant books are available for the inquirer, catechumen and candidates, neophytes and sponsors.

### **Apprentices in Faith** RCL Benziger Publications

*Apprentices in Faith* is a unique online resource for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), based on the Church's time-honored model of apprenticeship. It provides RCIA teams and participants with sound liturgical, scriptural, and doctrinal resources to use throughout the RCIA process. It includes resources for all participants in the RCIA process.

### **On the Journey** Liturgy Training Publications

An RCIA program developed by the Association of Catechumenal Ministry: a team of RCIA directors, catechists, clergy and theologians. The reproducible materials make this a flexible program, designed for systematic and organic catechesis. Choose what you want to present and when you want to present it.

### **Faith, Life, & Creed** Twenty-Third Publications

Faith Life & Creed provides forty possible easy-to-use doctrinal sessions that flow naturally from the celebration of the liturgy and the liturgical year. Comprehensive and systematic, Faith, Life & Creed covers all areas of Catholic belief and lifestyle, Catholic ritual and practice with clarity and fidelity. Each session, makes a connection with the Sunday liturgy, as well as the Catechism of Catholic Church.

### **Journey of Faith for Adults** Liguori Publications

A flexible RCIA program that uses discussion questions, private journaling, and Scripture-based activities to appeal to a variety of learners of all ages and backgrounds. Discusses the core concepts of Catholic belief and practice in straightforward language using real-life examples. The doctrinal catechesis uses four packets of 4-page, full-color handouts for each stage of the RCIA process,

### **God Call You By Name** Mother's House Publishing

A complete RCIA program or a wealth of knowledge to supplement and strengthen your existing program. Participant Edition has 19 chapters that give a comprehensive view of the church. Anchored in the Catechism, the documents of Vatican II, the New American Bible, Canon Law and the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. The program offers two approaches: 1) Going through the chapters sequentially or 2) Building the program on the Sunday Liturgical Readings. Approved by the Bishops' Committee. (© 2006, 2012)

### **Association for Catechumenal Ministry** distributed by Liturgy Training Publications

Offers a Leader's Manual, Catechist's Manual, Participant Book with CD-ROM and Godparent & Sponsor Book. The publication is the fruit of hard work of various parish RCIA directors with years of experience implementing the catechumenate in their own parishes. It explains the RCIA in-depth while giving many practical tools to implement the RCIA with ease. The participant Books provides 380 handouts in PDF format that has unlimited permission to reproduce. No pre-set curriculum to follow the program gives you the flexibility to choose the order of topics that best suits the individuals seeking the faith.

**How do I become a Catholic?** (Video) Liturgy Training Publications offers a short, free video on the Christian Initiation Process and other resources on their website.

## CATECHETICAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

### **The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE)**

Released on March 9, 2011, the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) is the culmination of nearly 20 years of work by a group of nearly 100 scholars and theologians, including bishops, revisers and editors. The NABRE includes a newly revised translation of the entire Old Testament (including the Book of Psalms) along with the 1986 edition of the New Testament.

### **United States Catholic Catechism for Adults** USCCB Publishing

Each chapter in the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults includes stories, doctrine, reflections, quotations, discussion questions, and prayers to lead the reader to a deepening faith. The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults is an excellent resource for preparation of catechumens in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and for ongoing catechesis of adults.

### **New Catholic Vision** RCL Benziger Publications

Thirty-one 4-page handouts by Mark Link, is designed to be used in any order or to correlated with the Sunday readings. The handouts are in color and quote extensively from the Catechism. Topics include the creed, the Bible, sacraments and morality.

### **In His Light** Our Sunday Visitor Publication

A basic text that presents the foundational beliefs of the Catholic faith without overwhelming the reader with detail. Includes questions in large, bold print with simple-sentence answers in large italic print, followed by longer explanatory paragraphs.

### **Making Disciples** Our Sunday Visitor Publication

Making Disciples, second Edition recently updated with new chapters to accommodate either a one-or two-year RCIA catechumenate. And it features new topics including developing a life of prayer; Catholic spirituality; scripture; ecumenism; liturgical year; Catholic social teaching; the Catholic Church's relations to non-Christians; and stewardship.

### **The Living Word, Leading RCIA Dismissals: Year A, B, C** Liturgy Training Publications

This is an easy-to-use resource that provides initiation ministers with the pastoral tools needed to lead dismissal sessions with unbaptized adults preparing for full initiation. The step-by-step format makes leading the dismissal catechesis an easy and prayerful experience.

### **Catholic Updates** St. Anthony Messenger Press

*Catholic Update* is a practical and affordable 4-page newsletter that explores Church teaching and traditions, promoting better understanding by all Catholics. *Catholic Updates* offers a new topic each month and explores a key aspect of our Catholic faith or a current topic of importance to Catholics. The information is written in language that is easy for the average Catholic to understand. Also available digitally with reprint license.

### **Every Day Catholic** St. Anthony Messenger Press

This monthly four-page handout designed for small group discussion includes a main article, quotes, "Movie Moments," prayer, other articles and connections to life.

### **Unfolding the Mystery of Christ Sunday by Sunday** Liturgical Press

*Unfolding the Mystery of Christ* spreads before the reader the exciting, life-giving adventure, which Initiation should be, not only for the catechumens, but also for catechists, sponsors, other parish ministers, and the entire parish. The book presents an ordered method for preparing the period of the catechumenate Sunday-by-Sunday, season-by-season, liturgical year by liturgical year.

**The Pastoral Center.com** provides parish leaders with resources for all levels of parish catechetical ministry.

## **FOR RCIA MINISTERS: RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

The following lists of recommended resources will help prepare and empower initiation ministers in the RCIA process. The resources listed are by publisher and are only a few of the many resources available. Along with the provided recommendations, the Office of Worship offers annual training opportunities. These annual gatherings help strengthen RCIA ministers while providing networking opportunities with other ministers from around the Diocese.

### **Liturgy Press Publications**

#### **The Role of the Coordinator in Christian Initiation** by Donna M. Eschenauer

*The Role of the Coordinator in Christian Initiation: A Pastoral and Practical Guide*, provides practical tips to help the process flow smoothly in the parish. Pastoral concerns surrounding marriage and other issues are also addressed. In addition, a table is provided for a visual representation of the stages and periods throughout the rite.

#### **An Introduction to the RCIA: The Vision of Christian Initiation** by Reverend Ronald J. Lewinski

*An Introduction to the RCIA* serves as a basic primer for those involved with Christian Initiation ministry. This resource provides an overview of the four stages of initiation and their accompanying rituals as well as questions for discussion and reflection.

#### **Year-Round Catechumenate** by Mary Birmingham

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults describes an initiation process that helps readers to rethink the common model of a RCIA based on the school year. With its helpful treatment of the Rite as a whole and the community's role within it, Year-Round Catechumenate will help pastors, initiation teams, liturgy committees and other ministers imagine, envision, understand and implement a year-round catechumenate in the parish.

#### **Q&A on the RCIA: A Guide to Understanding Christian Initiation** by Father Paul Turner

*Q&A on the RCIA: A Guide to Understanding Christian Initiation* is an easy-to-use resource that will assist RCIA teams, catechists, liturgists, priests, and deacons as they navigate the initiation process. Pastorally and succinctly, this resource answers many frequently asked questions about the process of Christian initiation and its rites.

#### **Guide to Adapting the RCIA for Children** by Rita Burns Senseman

Using the Rite itself, this book will help RCIA coordinators, catechists, and directors of religious education prepare children and their families to celebrate the rites of the Church and the sacraments of initiation. It provides parish-tested models and sample sessions; appendixes on how to prepare and lead child catechesis, and how to celebrate the liturgical rites; answers to frequently asked questions, and a glossary of terms.

#### **Guide for Celebrating Christian Initiation with Children** by Senseman, Tufano, Williamson

This resource explores how to celebrate the rites of Christian initiation in ways that are appropriate to children. This book provides a historical overview of the development of the initiation of children. It shows how to prepare children and their families for full participation in the rites.

#### **The Reception of Baptized Christians: Pastoral and Practical Approaches** by Oakham

Validly baptized Christians have already been initiated into Jesus Christ which calls for ecumenical sensitivity and pastoral wisdom on the part of those who will accompany these candidates as they prepare for reception. Oakham describes a path for the preparation of both catechized and uncatechized candidates grounded in their Baptism.

#### **The Role of the Priest in Christian Initiation** by Stephen S. Wilbricht, CSC

This resource guides priests through the periods and steps of the RCIA process, pointing out their role as shepherd to the community.

**A Harvest for God: Christian Initiation in the Rural & Small-Town Parish** by Michael Clay

*A Harvest for God: Christian Initiation in the Rural and Small-Town Parish* offers practical, step-by-step insights into implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in a way that is faithful to the rite and respectful of rural culture. Anyone who ministers in a rural or small-town catechumenate will find this book a valuable aid.

**Discerning Disciples: Listening For God's Voice In Christian Initiation** by Donna Steffen, SC

This invaluable resource for initiation ministers who journey with RCIA catechumens and candidates has been revised and includes new chapters on discernment with baptized candidates, children, and among initiation team members. It describes how people experience it the discernment process and serves to improve the listening skills of guides to assist them in asking the appropriate questions at the right time.

**Liturgical Press**

**When Other Christians Become Catholic** by Father Paul Turner

Seeking to clarify and confirm the status of baptized persons who enter into full communion of the Catholic Church, Turner's historical and ecumenically sensitive analysis will help members of catechumenate teams think more carefully about the baptismal unity of all Christians.

**Your Parish Is the Curriculum: RCIA in the Midst of Community** by Diana Macalintal

In this book, readers will discover why doing the RCIA in the midst of the community not only forms seekers into disciples but renews the conversion of the entire parish. What parishioners can do to take responsibility for the initiation of adults, without adding another meeting to their lives. How to use the four key areas of parish life and the liturgical year to introduce seekers to Christ and train them in the Christian way of life. And how to use mystagogical reflection on parish life to provide a systematic and complete catechesis appropriate for each level.

**Field Hospital Catechesis** by Nick Wagner

Wagner provides a practical guide in how to bring Pope Francis's image of the Church as a "field hospital" to help us understand the catechumenate. This central insight into our catechetical ministry, reminds us that, at its core, the proclamation of the Gospel is an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ.

**Older – May be Hard to Find but worth it**

**RCIA and You: Practical Experiences and Ideas for Leaders** by Blessie La Scola

This is a practical guide for setting up and leading the RCIA process or improving the one already in the parish. It gives specific suggestions for dealing with some difficult circumstances and helps to develop the attitude of letting the process address the individual's needs rather than a stricter "one size fits all" program. This is not a set of sessions, but an explanation of what to do, and how and why to do it. Plentiful examples make it more understandable and contribute ideas on what works and what might not. It emphasizes listening to the participants to determine readiness for the sacraments or needs for the catechetical sessions. The catechumenate for children is addressed specifically, including working with those with special needs.

**Apprenticed to Christ** by Jerry Galipeau

Your RCIA team will get ideas and resources for a true apprenticeship process. Jerry gives you hands-on, easy-to-implement activities for every Sunday of the three-year liturgical cycle. He backs up the activities with resources from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, documents from Vatican II, letters from the popes, and liturgical rites.

**The Way of Faith** by Nick Wagner

With this field guide in their hands, parish leaders and teams will have the confidence they need to lead the RCIA, teach others how to help with the process, and transforms the hearts of everyone involved. The book offers advice, tips, techniques, and tools to start or sustain the catechumenate in their parishes. It includes advice for every aspect

of the rite including starting a team, running a catechetical session, leading a dismissal, finding sponsors, discernment and celebrating the rites.

**Celebrating Initiation: A Guide for Priests** by Father Paul Turner

Celebrating Initiation helps seminarians and priests navigate their way through twenty-six rites of initiation, including all of the various rites of the RCIA. Included are adaptations for already baptized candidates, infant baptismal rites, confirmation of a person facing imminent death, and parish celebrations of First Communion.

**Team RCIA.Com:** A free online resource for Catholic parishes that want to start or sustain the catechumenate in their communities by providing accessible and relevant resources through articles and conversations and printed resources. They also offer a variety of on-line and in-person training, through webinars, downloads and discussion forums.