

SPRING 2010

Year for Priests

**RCIA Ministry
INTRODUCTORY TRAINING
"NEWBURGH"**

For Coordinators, Catechists, Team Members



All Seminars held on Saturdays
9:00am - 3:00pm

Location

Sacred Heart Church
301 Ann Street
Newburgh, NY 12550



Catechetical Office
Archdiocese of New York



**The Rite of Christian
Initiation Of Adults
(The Catechumenate)**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the official ritual text of the Church which directs, supports and sustains the way of faith and conversion by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are initiated into the Catholic Church. Although many Catholics are not familiar with it, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults was restored to the Church in 1972 at the request of the Second Vatican Council as the normative way by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are to be initiated into the Catholic Church. In 1988, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops published the ritual text we now use. The RCIA is normative for the christian initiation of adults and children of catechetical age. The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful.

Course Descriptions

RCIA Ministry Introductory Sessions

Overview of the Catechumenate

Outlines the goals of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (the Catechumenate) as well as the History, the Order and the ministries needed for the Catechumenate.

Understanding the Precatechumenate

Concentrates on the Precatechumenate, including methods for evangelizing catechesis. Participants experience and reflect on an adapted combined Rite of Acceptance and Welcome.

Understanding the Catechumenate Period

Concentrates on the Period of the Catechumenate. Participants experience and reflect on an adapted "Breaking Open of the Word" session and an adapted Rite of Sending.

Understanding the
Purification/ Enlightenment Period

Examines the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. Participants experience and reflect on an adapted Rite of Election and an adapted Scrutiny.

Understanding the Mystagogy Period

Explores the Period of Mystagogy. Participants reflect on the Rites of Christian Initiation that are celebrated during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Pastoral Issues with the Catechumenate (I)

Reflects on various common pastoral issues that may arise in a Catholic parish with the implementation of the Catechumenate. Guidance is given for the proper pastoral response to these issues.

Dates and Time of Seminars

Saturdays, 9am – 3pm
April 17, 2010
May 22, 2010
June 5, 2010

Fee and Due Date

3 Seminars @ \$20 each Seminar

FEES

\$ 60.00

DUE DATE

March 31, 2010

Location

Orange County: Sacred Heart Church
Parish Activity Center
301 Ann Street
Newburgh, NY 12550
845-252-6681

To register go to: www.nyfaithformation.org

Or contact:

Oscar Cruz

Director, Adult Catechesis, Catechumenate
Catechetical Office

1011 First Avenue, NY, NY 10022
212-371-1011 ext. 2851 or ext. 2692

RCIA@nyfaithformation.org



Introductory RCIA Ministry Training
Dates and Topics

Seminar # 1: Saturday, April 17, 2010

Session One: *Theology*
God and Revelation

Session Two: *RCIA Ministry*
Overview of the Catechumenate

Session Three: *RCIA Ministry*
Understanding the Precatechumenate

Seminar # 2: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Session One: *Theology*
Introduction to Sacred Scripture

Session Two: *RCIA Ministry*
Understanding the Catechumenate
Period

Session Three: *RCIA Ministry*
Understanding the
Purification/Enlightenment Period

Seminar # 3: June 5, 2010

Session One: *Theology*
Jesus, Fullness of Revelation

Session Two: *RCIA Ministry*
Understanding the Mystagogy Period

Session Three: *RCIA Ministry*
Pastoral Issues with the Catechumenate I



“The rite of Christian initiation presented here is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts,” (RCIA # 1)

“The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful” (RCIA #4)

“The catechumenate is an extended period during which the candidates are given suitable pastoral formation and guidance, aimed at training them in the Christian life...” (RCIA #75)

“This is achieved in four ways: - suitable catechesis - ...become familiar with the Christian way of life - by the example and support of sponsors, godparents and the entire Christian community, ...suitable liturgical rites...working actively with others to spread the Gospel and build the Church by the witness of their lives...” (RCIA #75)

“During the period of the catechumenate there should be celebrations of the word of God that accord with the liturgical season and that contribute to the instruction of the catechumens...” (RCIA #81)

“The whole initiation must bear a markedly paschal character, since the initiation of Christians is the first sacramental sharing in Christ’s dying and rising and since, in addition, the period of purification and enlightenment ordinarily coincides with Lent and the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy with the Easter Season” (RCIA # 8)

“As a general rule, parish priests (pastors) should make use of the rite of initiation in such a way that the sacraments themselves are celebrated at the Easter Vigil and the rite of election takes place on the First Sunday of Lent. The rest of the rites are spaced on the basis of the structure and arrangement of the catechumenate as described.” (RCIA #17)



Dear Candidates,
Your answers mean that you wish to share
your life and hope in Christ.
To admit you as catechumens
I know mark you with the
Sign of Christ’s cross and
call upon your catechists and sponsors
to do the same.
(RCIA # 55)

Have they faithfully listened to
God’s word proclaimed by the Church?

Have they responded to that word and
begun to walk in God’s presence?

Have they shared the company of their
Christian brothers and sisters and
Joined with them in prayer?

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I now declare you to be members of the
elect, to be initiated into the sacred
mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.



The God of power and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and
brought you to new life through water and
the Holy Spirit.

He now anoints you with the chrism of
salvation to so that, united with his people
you may remain for ever a member of Christ
Who is Priest, Prophet and King.