

CATECHUMENATE

n. 7-2, 75 – 117, Ap. III, n. 6

Formation During this Period

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

Pastoral Aspects (n. 75.2, 75.4)	Catechetical Aspects (n. 75.1)	Liturgical Aspects (n. 75.3)
<p>Catechumens learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ “to turn to God more readily in prayer, ❖ to bear witness to the faith, ❖ to keep their hopes set on Christ, ❖ to follow supernatural inspiration in their deeds, ❖ to practice love of neighbor.” (n. 75.2) ❖ “Catechumens should...learn how to work actively with others to spread the Gospel and build up the Church by the witness of their lives and by professing their faith.” (n. 75.4) 	<p>“A suitable catechesis is provided [and] planned to be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ gradual and complete in its coverage, ❖ accommodated to the liturgical year, and ❖ solidly supported by celebrations of the Word. <p>This catechesis leads the catechumens 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.” (n. 75.1)</p> <p>Such a catechesis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ enlightens faith, ❖ directs the heart toward God, ❖ fosters participation in the liturgy, ❖ inspires apostolic activity and ❖ nurtures a life completely in accord with the Spirit of Christ.” (n.78) 	<p>“The Church...helps the catechumens on their journey by means of suitable liturgical rites, which purify the catechumens little by little and strengthen them with Gods blessing.” (75.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Celebrations of the Word of God (n.75.3, 81-89) ❖ Minor Exorcisms (n. 89, 90-94) ❖ Blessings (n. 89, 95-97, Ap. III, n. 8) ❖ Anointing with the oil of Catechumens (n. 79, 98-103) ❖ “The catechumens should be taught to keep holy the Lord’s Day.” (n. 83) ❖ “Ordinarily ... when [catechumens] are present in the assembly of the faithful [at Mass] they should be kindly dismissed before the liturgy of the eucharist begins. (n. 75.3)