

## Archdiocese of San Antonio – RCIA Study Day – June 20, 2020

9:30 Am – 10:00 AM – Ongoing Team Formation – Part I

*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, December 3, 1963 (Sacrosanctum Concilium)*

64. The catechumenate for adults, comprising **several distinct steps**, is to be restored and to be taken into use at the discretion of the local ordinary. By this, means the time of the catechumenate, which is **intended as a period of suitable instruction**, may be **sanctified by sacred rites to be celebrated at successive intervals of time**.

**66. Both the rites for the baptism of adults are to be revised: not only the simpler rite, but also the more solemn one, which must take into account the restored catechumenate.** A special Mass "for the conferring of baptism" is to be inserted into the Roman Missal.

A General Question: If you want to maintain the integrity of the process, do you know what the process is? In its entirety? Can you, in your own words, describe the entire process?

What's the significance of each one of the Rites, and does the way these rites are celebrated make a difference as to their understanding in the process?

Question: Who is on your RCIA Parish Team, and how or why did they get on the team? Do you, as director, have a team, and if so, do you know how each person was invited onto the RCIA team?

Question: Is it necessary to engage in ongoing team formation at my parish? Why? Or Why Not?

Question: What's involved in ongoing team formation?

**Who** is on your team? (These are all possible "persons" to have, but realistically speaking, one person may serve more than one role, maybe two or three, or a role may become a collective responsibility) (These would be their "specialties") What kind of Spirituality do they have? What is their "mentality" about people seeking to join the Church? Very important questions to discuss. Our mentality colors our whole view of things and determines which way we have the courage to lean.

Evangelization Minister –

Hospitality Minister –

Sunday Assembly –

Prayer Minister –

Discernment Minister –

Peace and Justice Minister –

Catechetical Minister –

Sponsor Coordinator –

Sponsor –  
Catechumenate Director –  
Ordained Presider –  
Lay Presider –  
Deacon –  
Bishop –  
Spiritual Director –  
Homilist –  
Liturgist –  
Music Minister –  
Mystagogue –  
Psychologist or Family Counsellor –

Some areas of discussion among team members:

The VISION of the Catechumenate in/for the Universal Church

The VISION of the Catechumenate in/for the Parish

The Gifts each person brings – What/where are the strengths and the best use of those gifts

A Plan for Ongoing Formation – can be based around some of the very activities that the Catechumens themselves engage in:

Breaking Open the Word with and among yourselves – includes time of Lectio Divina

Your participation in Liturgy, and mystagogy about the Liturgy with and among yourselves

Apostolic Works within and outside the parish, especially outside the parish that give witness to a lived faith. What does each member do individually, and what do you do collectively? Why or why not?

Studying the Rite Book IN DETAIL, and asking critical questions about the manner of celebration, and the options given.

Theological Updating (for us locally, through Oblate offerings, RCIA Institute in Chicago, etc., Southwest Liturgical Conference study Week each January in varying locations of the Southwest)

Reading a book in common on the team

## **A Possible Calendar**

Yearly – An Annual Retreat Day filled with Scripture, Reflection time, a lot of liturgical singing, and rituals that draw on the primary rituals of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Quarterly – A Pot-luck supper – purely social – how well do the team members mesh? How do team members relate to each other?

Monthly – A way to “Check in” on the progress of our catechumens/candidates that we care for collectively, and a way to check with their sponsors as well (help with questions of faith)

Weekly – Reporting on the day-to-day progress of our catechumens/candidates

For further discussion: What is our understanding of faith?

What is our understanding of the three sacraments of initiation as they relate to each other?

What is the Mission of Jesus Christ? (Isaiah)

What is the place of the Catholic Church in relation to that Mission?

How do you understand the role of the parish and of the team in the making of Christians?

What is it that we need to “let go of” (individually/collectively) in order to work with this process?

What IS the conversion process?

What is the GOAL of the Conversion process?

Where on the scale do your team members lie? 1 (membership/information) to 10 (discipleship/transformation)

One good resource: RCIA Spirituality! Formation for the Catechumenate Team, by Barbara Hixon, with reflection questions by Gael Gensler, published by Resource Publications, Inc. Revised edition 1997