

# Period of Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate

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Session #2

# INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC AND OR RECEIVING SACRAMENTS?

- Are you, or has someone you know expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Were you, or do you know someone who was baptized as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
- Do you have or know of a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?

We offer an opportunity to join a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church, and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for adults, and children and teens. You are invited to share your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting.

Are you looking for something, but don't know what? Do you attend Mass weekly, but you really don't get much out of it? Do you get angry with God sometimes? Do you have questions about your faith, about prayer, about the Catholic Church, or about how you can develop a better spiritual life? Then RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) may be the journey of faith that you are being invited to take. While RCIA does not claim to solve the problems of the world, the RCIA process can guide you to find more happiness in your life by developing a better and closer relationship with God. When you place God in the center of your life, all trials are easier and good times even better. RCIA classes for the year 2021-22 will begin on - - [Day, Month] - - at - - - - in - - - - . This class is an introduction for those who are interested and to welcome everyone to RCIA. If you have questions in the meantime, please call - - - - -

# Precatechumenate/Evangelization

*So what's supposed to be going on during this period?*

On RCIA Team's Part:

- **Get to know the Inquirers**
- **Answer preliminary questions**
- **Introduce Inquirers to the First Proclamation; (Gospel Message) Evangelization**
- **Give a simple personal testimony: How God has made a difference in your life**
- **Introduce Inquirers to various forms of Prayer**

On Participants' Part:

- **Inquire! Ask questions and participate**
- **Show initial signs of conversion to Christ.**

# Precatechumenate / Evangelization - *Evangelii Gaudium*

164. ...[W]e have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or kerygma, which needs to be the center of all evangelizing activity ... The kerygma is Trinitarian. The fire of the Spirit is given in the form of tongues and leads us to believe in Jesus Christ who, by his death and resurrection, reveals and communicates to us the Father's infinite mercy. On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over:

*“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”*

# Precatechumenate / Evangelization - *Evangelii Gaudium*

164. (Cont.)

This first proclamation is called “first” not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment.

# Precatechumenate / Evangelization - *Evangelii Gaudium*

165. We must not think that in catechesis the kerygma gives way to a supposedly more “solid” formation ...

All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the kerygma, which is reflected in and constantly illumines ... It is the message capable of responding to the desire for the infinite which abides in every human heart.

# Precatechumenate / Evangelization - *Evangelii Gaudium*

165. (Cont.) The centrality of the kerygma calls for stressing those elements which are most needed today:

- 1) it has to express God's saving love which precedes any moral and religious obligation on our part;
- 2) it should not impose the truth but appeal to freedom;
- 3) it should be marked by joy, encouragement, liveliness and a harmonious balance which will not reduce preaching to a few doctrines which are at times more philosophical than evangelical.

All this demands on the part of the evangelizer certain attitudes which foster openness to the message: approachability, readiness for dialogue, patience, a warmth and welcome which is non-judgmental.



# Precatechumenate / Evangelization

- ▶ The term κήρυγμα, (KERYGMA) is Greek for “proclamation.” Thus the Kerygma is what is proclaimed.
- ▶ As the Apostles began the work of preaching and proclaiming Christ, they proclaimed the essence of the Gospel - the Kerygma.
- ▶ More extended teaching or instruction, Διδαχή, (DIDACHE) in Greek, would come later, after initial adherence to Christ.

So let's not be doing DIDACHE when we should be doing KERYGMA in the Precatechumenate

# Precatechumenate/Evangelization - the Kerygma

**The basic curricula of the kerygma is that:**

- ✓ The human person is afflicted by sin, the origin of all conflict and suffering
- ✓ Jesus is the chosen Messiah of God, the one who was promised.
- ✓ Though he was crucified, He rose gloriously from the dead, appearing to his disciples.
- ✓ Having been exulted at the right hand of the Father through his ascension, he now summons all to him through the ministry of the Church.

***This glorious Good News requires a response from us:***

- ✓ We should repent of our sins accept and accept baptism.
- ✓ We can then live in the new life of grace and salvation which Christ offers.
- ✓ There is an urgent need to conform ourselves to Christ and tell others of this Good News.

# Precatechumenate/Evangelization

## Some important RCIA Team Skills

- Forming Relationships:** w/ God and with others in a way that invites authentic friendship?
- Hospitality:** Welcoming, openness, and generosity of spirit
- Sincerity & Witness:** Does how we act conform to what we believe? Are we faithful witnesses to Christ & the Gospel? Can we speak to our relationship with Christ?
- Trust & Respect:** Can we be trusted with personal and confidential information? Can we interact with inquirers very different from ourselves?

# Precatechumenate/Evangelization

## 10 Goals for the Inquirers - RCIA #42

- ▶ **Basic Christian Teaching (Gospel)**
- ▶ **Evidence of First Faith**
- ▶ **Initial Conversion**
- ▶ **Intention to Change One's Life & enter into Relationship w/ Christ**
- ▶ **First Stirrings of Repentance**
- ▶ **Calling on God in Prayer**
- ▶ **Sense of the Church**
- ▶ **Experience of Community**
- ▶ **Beginnings of Spiritual Life**
- ▶ **Learn about Rite of Acceptance**

## What to avoid at all costs:



- ▶ **RCIA Inquirer:** *"Hello, I'd like to learn more about becoming a Catholic."*
- ▶ **RCIA Team member:** *"I'm Sorry, it's only January. Please come back in September."*