

Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and Rite of Welcoming the Baptized for Full Communion

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Session #3

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."*

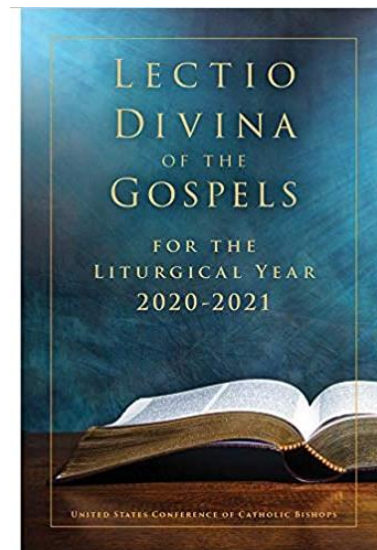
Some options for a “year-round” Inquiry/Precatechumenate

Option A) Monthly Inquirer “Drop-in” Nights/Mornings/Evenings

A small team of a priest and/or deacon along with some competent laity lead a reflection on a fitting Gospel passage, offer a short presentation on an element of Faith, give a personal testimony, and field questions - always keeping the 9 goals for Inquirers in play.

A parish might consider:

- ▶ Early Saturday or Sunday morning
- ▶ A commuter mid-week version from 7-8am.
- ▶ A weekday evening



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Option B) Alpha for Catholics

This kerygmatic evangelization resource, originally developed by the Anglican Church, also adapted for Catholics has received recommended status from the USCCB. Alpha for Catholics (www.alphausa.org) provides ten basic sessions to introduce the faith and evangelize participants. It is designed to be friendly and nonthreatening so that participants can explore the faith in a manner that relates to the questions they have. Nevertheless, the 9 goals for Inquirers should always enter into the planning and execution of these sessions.

At <https://alphausa.org/catholic/resources>, you can preview all videos and training content (watermarked) for free - only name & email needed. You can get all the digital content needed to run Alpha - all the digital videos, training guides, and web resources are available - all free! You can even promote your course online, and potential guests can look for your Alpha at alphausa.org/try.



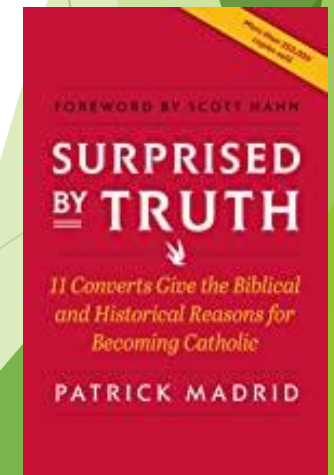
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Option C) Good Books or Videos w/ Regular Discussion

After meeting and getting to know the inquirer a bit (the Inquiry Form will help with this), choose a book or video series (Formed.org is a great resource) suited to the inquirer and set up periodic meetings with an RCIA Team member or two for review and discussion - especially about how it relates to the saving message of Christ - the Kerygma. And always keeping the 9 Goals for Inquirers in play during these periodic meetings:

Some suggested titles:

- ▶ *The Gospel of Mark* (for those *What Catholics Believe: A Pocket Catechism* by Mike Aquilina & Fr. Kris Stubna (for those interested in simple, basic teachings)
- ▶ *Rome Sweet Home* by Scott & Kimberly Hahn (good for Evangelicals)
- ▶ *Surprised by Truth* by Patrick Madrid (a compilation of conversion stories)
- ▶ *A Map of Life* by Frank Sheed (compact, good for anyone)



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Option E) “Catch-up”

Depending on the timing and the person, some creative catch-up might be able to be used, after which time a person could be invited into the Catechumenate Period sessions. This could be achieved through reading material, recorded presentations and extra meetings with a catechist - always remembering that the Kerygma must be presented and facilitating those 9 goals for Inquirers .

This approach is not without risk, since it’s tempting to rush a person through “missed material” without allowing sufficient time for proper reflection and conversion.

Use with caution.

Evangelization/Precatechumenate Period

Includes: the Kerygma (not Didache) and the 10 Goals for the Precatechumenate - which indicate readiness for the first Major Rite - the Rite of Acceptance (for catechumens) and the Rite of Welcoming (for candidates)

Team: All must acquire RCIA Team Skills of: Forming Relationships, Hospitality, Sincerity & Witness, Trust & Respect

What are some RCIA Team roles?



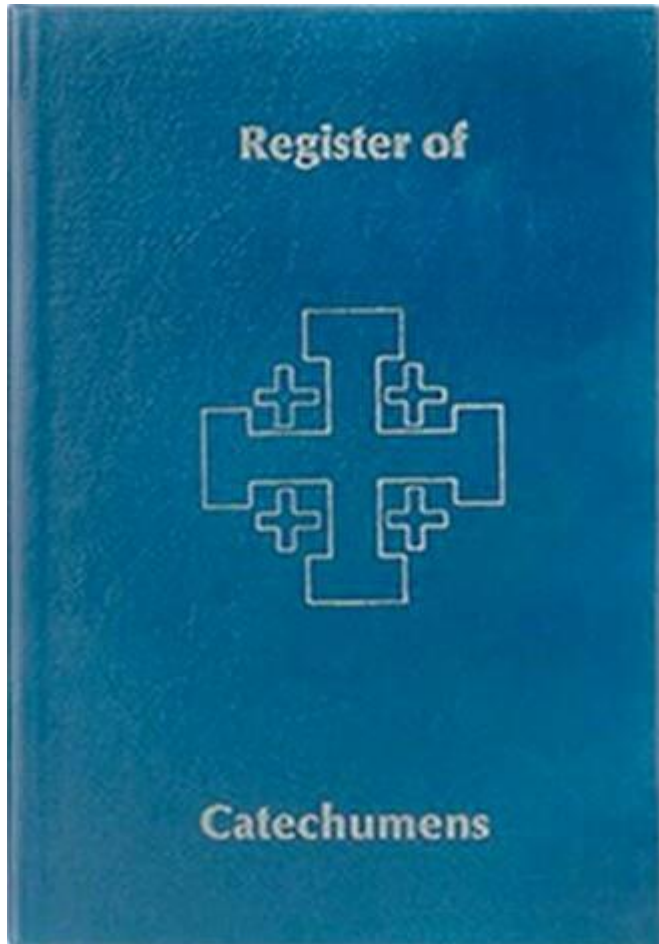
- ▶ RCIA Team Leader
- ▶ Inquiry Coordinator
- ▶ Catechist
- ▶ Sponsor Coordinator
- ▶ Dismissal Coordinator
- ▶ Prayer/Music Coordinator
- ▶ Hospitality Coordinator
- ▶ Spiritual Support Coordinator

What are some spiritual qualifications for RCIA team members no matter what their role?

- ▶ Fully initiated, active, practicing Catholics who are participating in the sacramental life of the Church.
- ▶ Catholics who know, believe, and are living their daily lives faithful to the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church.
- ▶ Catholics who recognize and accept their own ongoing conversion through daily prayer and frequent examination of their relationships with God and others.
- ▶ Catholics who are willing and able to share their faith experiences with others.
- ▶ Catholics who are willing to learn more about their Church, the RCIA and to commit themselves to the RCIA process.
- ▶ Catholics who are able to serve the participants, sponsors, RCIA team, RCIA director or coordinator, and the pastor. This involves acting in prudence, charity and discretion in matters of catechesis and discernment.

Small group processing

- ▶ 1. Why do you think that the Pre-Catechumenate “has no fixed duration or specific structure”?
- ▶ 2. How can the Kerygma be the basis of ongoing catechesis after Inquiry is over?
- ▶ 3. Why are the RCIA Team Skills & Qualifications necessary for the whole team?
- ▶ 4. What form of Year-Round Inquiry would you choose and why?



Registers of Catechumens are required for parishes in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

- Office of the Chancellor
- Office of Archives & Records Management