

Christian Initiation of Adults in Exceptional Circumstances *(RCIA 331-369)*

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What are these Exceptional Circumstances? (RCIA 332)

- ▶ These include:
 - chronic illness
 - advanced age
 - long absence for necessary travel
 - change of residence from another diocese

Prerogative of the Bishop

- ▶ It pertains to the bishop in his own diocese:
to decide if a particular situation is, in fact, an exceptional circumstance.
- ▶ Exceptional circumstances may arise in which the local bishop, in individual cases, can allow the use of a form of Christian initiation that is simpler than the usual, complete rite. *RCIA 331*

The extraordinary circumstances in question are of two types:

1. Events or circumstances that prevent the candidate from completing all the steps of the catechumenate.
2. A depth of Christian conversion and a degree of religious maturity that lead the local bishop to decide that the candidate may receive baptism without delay. *RCIA 331*

Two ways to handle extraordinary Circumstances:

► Expanded Form

For situations, for example, in which a participant was forced to interrupt their formation.

With bishop's permission, this form is developed from elements of the complete rite. *(RCIA 332)*

For example, the Rite of Acceptance, some blessings and anointings from the Period of the Catechumenate, and elements from the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

Care should be taken that: *(RCIA 335)*

1. The candidate has received a full catechesis
2. The candidate feels part of the parish assembly
3. Post-baptismal catechesis is available

► Abbreviated Form

With the bishop's permission, candidate must: *(RCIA 336)*

- have received an adequate period of instruction and preparation to grow stronger in conversion & faith.
- have the appropriate godparent(s) or sponsor(s)
- be acquainted with the parish community.
- The Rite is normally celebrated during Mass, if at all possible on a Sunday, with the local parish community taking part *(RCIA 338, 339)*

Christian Initiation of Adults in Exceptional Circumstances (Abbreviated Form) *RCIA 340 - 369*

▶ RECEIVING THE CANDIDATE

Greeting

Opening Dialogue

Candidate's Declaration

Affirmation by the Godparents

Invitation to the Word of God

▶ LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings

Homily

Intercessions

Prayer of Exorcism or Penitential Rite

Anointing or Laying on of Hands

▶ CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Invitation to Prayer

Prayer over the Water

Profession of Faith

Baptism

Explanatory Rites

▶ CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Laying on of Hands

Anointing with Chrism

▶ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Christian Initiation of a person in Danger of Death *RCIA 370 - 399*

- ▶ Persons, catechumens or not, who are in danger of death but are not at the point of death and are able to hear and answer the questions involved may be baptized with this short rite. [Which includes all three sacraments of initiation.
- ▶ Catechumens in danger of death are to agree to complete their formation if they are able to recover.
- ▶ In the case of a person who is at the point of death and time is short, the minister pours natural water on the head of the person while saying the usual Trinitarian sacramental form.
- ▶ If a person is baptized in danger of death or at the point of death recovers, they are to be welcomed, given suitable formation, and receive the other sacraments of initiation.