

Resources for RCIA

The following references are suggested as helpful resources for implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and for the initiation of children.

Ritual Text and other official documents of the Church:

- * *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Study edition.* NCCB, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, 1988. Available from many publishers including USCC, Liturgy Training Publications, Liturgical Press, and Catholic Book Publishing Company. (*Essential that all team members be very familiar with this text.*)
- * *General Directory for Catechesis:* USCC, Congregation for the Clergy, 1997. This 1997 revision takes into account the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other magisterial teachings. Also available in Spanish.
- * *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2nd edition, USCC), *The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (USCCB 2006), and *The Rites of the Catholic Church* (Liturgical Press, 1991) are helpful resources for teams to have on hand as reference.
- * *The Liturgy Documents: A Parish Resource.* Liturgy Training Publications, 2004. With commentary and index, the most important and useful documents of the liturgical reform are collected here under one cover for reference and study. Also available in Spanish.
- * *The Catechetical Documents: A Parish Resource.* Martin Connell, editor. Liturgy Training Publications. 1996. With commentary and index, this is a collection of the major teachings of the Church on catechesis from Vatican Council II to the present.

Background for the Initiation process:

- * *The Catechumenate Answer Book.* Paul Turner. Resource Publications, Inc., 2000. 101 most-asked questions from parish ministers and teams answered with pastoral wisdom and solid research. An easy-to-use resource that will be of great value to parish initiation teams. Includes an index for easy referencing.
- * *The RCIA: Transforming the Church.* Thomas H. Morris. Paulist Press, revised and updated edition 1997. The place of liturgy in the initiation process, the process of liturgical catechesis, the adaptation for baptized candidates and for children, and a guided reading of the ritual text are among the topics covered that will assist teams in implementing the initiation process in their parish. This is a book to start with and to refer to over and over again. An excellent guide and a complete commentary on the rites of initiation.
- * *A Harvest for God – Christian Initiation in the rural and small-town parish.* Michael Clay. Liturgy Training Publications, 2003. Though much has been written about Christian initiation, people who live in small towns or rural areas live in a different culture from

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those in urban and suburban areas. Clay presents these differences and offers practical ways to implement the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in a way that is both respectful of the rural culture and faithful to the vision of the rite. Anyone working in a small or rural parish will find this book to be a valuable resource.

* *Year-Round Catechumenate*. Mary Birmingham. Font and Table Series. Liturgy Training Publications, 2002. Mary Birmingham's book will help parish teams to envision, understand and implement a year-round process of initiation in the parish. This reflects the vision of the Rite that "Christian initiation is a spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God's grace (RCIA #5).

* *The Way of Faith- A Field Guide for the RCIA Process*. Nick Wagner. Twenty-Third Publications. 2008. A basic resource for parish teams who are striving to start and sustain an RCIA process in their communities. The Way of Faith is supported by an extensive Web site of continuously updated supplementary material. You can view the Web site at TeamRCIA.com.

* *Come to the Water: The Journey to Adult Baptism*. Video from USCCB. Come to the Water follows both catechumens and candidates in the year-round RCIA process of adult education and initiation into the Catholic community, culminating in their Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Filmed on location in the Pacific Northwest and in the breathtaking interior of St. James Cathedral, the program is a vibrant and moving experience of the adult spiritual journey. This CCC production originally aired on ABC-TV affiliates across the country. Produced by New Group Media. Study Guide available. Check Seattle Liturgy Office to see where you can get a copy.

* *The Impact of the RICA: Stories, Reflections, Challenges*. Compiled and edited by Jerry Galipeau. World Library Publications. 2008. This book is a look back over the 20 years since the implementation of the Rite to assess the Rite's impact on the Church. Essays include contributions from an Archbishop, priests, liturgists, parish directors, catechists, different cultural views, and one from a presbyter in The United Methodist Church from an ecumenical perspective.

* *The Catechumenate and the Law: A Pastoral and Canonical Commentary for the Church in the United States*. Font and Table Series. Liturgy Training Publications, 1994. Huels reviews issues that pastoral ministers may encounter which are affected by the Church's canon law, i.e., uses relating to candidates, invalid or doubtful baptism, sponsors, marriage cases. Etc.

Background for Scripture and Catechesis:

* *Faith, Life, and Creed*. A Complete Catechesis for Christian Living. Mary Birmingham. TeamRCIA resources and Twenty-Third Publications. Faith, Life & Creed provides a Breaking Open the Word session for every Sunday of the year. Through these sessions, the catechist reflects with the catechumens and candidates the doctrine of the church that flows from the celebration of the liturgy over the course of a complete liturgical year. Comes in pdf files. May be purchased for an entire cycle, or monthly sessions.

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* *The Cultural World of Jesus (Cycle A, B, and C)*. John J. Pilch. The Liturgical Press, 1995. Any and all books by John Pilch provide an insight into the culture at the time the scripture was written and contrast that culture with today's Western world culture. In particular, *The Cultural World of Jesus, The Cultural World of the Apostles: The Second Reading, and The Cultural World of the Prophets: The First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm* will be helpful. They are available for each Sunday of Cycle A, B, and C. Published from 1995 to 2003, The Liturgical Press.

* *Preaching the New Lectionary*. Dianne Bergant with Richard Fragomeni. The Liturgical Press, 1999. (One for each cycle of the lectionary) This commentary on each of the four readings (including the psalm) provides an exegesis that situates the interpretation of the readings within the theology of the liturgical season and the themes of that particular year. An excellent resource for the catechist preparing liturgical catechesis.

* *The Way of Faith- A Field Guide for the RCIA Process*. Nick Wagner. Twenty-Third Publications, 2008. A basic resource for parish teams who are striving to start and sustain an RCIA process in their communities. The Way of Faith is supported by an extensive Web site of continuously updated supplementary material. You can view the Web site at TeamRCIA.com.

* *Word & Worship Workbook (Year A, B, and C – three volumes)* Mary Birmingham. Paulist Press, 1999. Available as a set or individually from Paulist Press, 1997-1999. In one resource, Birmingham has provided scholarly exegetical material relating to scripture and tradition, prayers and blessings from the liturgy, reflection questions, and suggestions for doctrinal themes. She provides a model intended for use by catechists in preparation for the sessions. A doctrinal appendix is included for the catechist's reference.

Prayer, Conversion and Discernment:

* *Discerning Disciples: Listening for God's Voice in Christian Initiation*. Liturgy Training Publications, 2004. This invaluable reference for sponsors and other guides who journey with RCIA candidates has been completely revised and updated. It describes the decision-making process and how people have experienced it. The book serves to improve the listening skills of guides and helps them ask the right questions at the right time.

Initiation of Baptized Candidates:

* *One at the Table: The Reception of Baptized Christians*. Ron Oakham. Liturgy Training Publications, 1995. Oakham and other pastoral ministers and scholars discuss the theological and pastoral implications of the baptized candidate in the initiation process. Oakham has interviewed initiation ministers throughout North America and presents practical and comprehensive ideas regarding the initiation of the baptized as well as the historical and theological foundations for ministry to the baptized. An essential book that should be in the hands of all parish teams.

* *When Other Christians Become Catholic*. Paul Turner. Liturgical Press. 2007. In this book, Fr. Paul Turner seeks to clarify and confirm the status of baptized persons. This historical

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and ecumenically sensitive analysis will help members of catechumenate teams think more carefully about the baptismal unity of all Christians.

Celebrating the Rites:

* *Chosen in Christ, Elegidos en Cristo.* Galipeau, Jerry. World Library Publications, 2002. This resource includes bi-lingual music for Christian Initiation, with pastoral and performance notes for each of the rites of initiation, and reproducible music for the assembly. The music is also available on CD.

* *Christ We Proclaim: A Music and Liturgy Resource for the Rites of Christian Initiation.* Christopher Walker, editor. Oregon Catholic Press, 2002. This resource presents music and notes for Christian initiation, including bi-lingual music. Offered in print and electronic (three CDs) form. Includes reprintable music for the assembly.

* *We Send You Forth.* Jerry Galipeau. World Library Publications. The dismissals contained in this book employ the biblical themes and images from the readings of the given Sunday or solemnity. In this way the catechumens are sent forth with ritual language that reflects the day's theme.

* *Celebrating Initiation – A Guide for Priests.* Paul Turner. World Library Publications. 2007. Written by a priest for priests, this book leads priests through all the various rites of initiation, including RCIA and adaptations for baptized candidates.

* *Apprenticed to Christ: Activities for practicing the Catholic Way of Life.* Jerry Galipeau. (Franklin Park, IL: Fountain of Life Series, World Library Publications, 2007). The Catechumenate as apprenticeship. Geared to the Rites. Covers each Sunday of the 3-year Lectionary cycle.

Glory in the Cross . Holy Week in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal by Paul Turner. Liturgical Press. Excellent resource for Liturgy Staff and RCIA directors/ Coordinators for Holy Week defining how the new GIRM and New Missal translation are to be implemented.

Team resources:

* *RCIA Spirituality: Formation for the Catechumenate Team.* Barbara Hixon and Gael Gensler. Resource Publications, Inc., 1997. This book, with its reflection questions designed by Gael Gensler, not only offers insight into the initiation process, but also inspires and challenges team members in their own journey.

* *Guide for Sponsors.* Fourth edition. Ron Lewinski. Liturgy Training Publications. 2008. Also, *Welcoming the New Catholic.* Team formation for liturgical prayer along with reflections on the nature of liturgical prayer, with helps for presiding and criteria for evaluating prayer sessions.

* *Catechumenate – A Journal of Christian Initiation.* Liturgy Training Publications. A journal published 6 times a year. Training, information, and ongoing formation for teams.

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* *When you are an RCIA Sponsor.* Rita Burns Senseman. Handing on the Faith Series. Anthony Messenger Press, 2001. This book offers suggestions and guidance for those who are sponsoring others in the journey of adult initiation. Suggestions are also given for sponsoring families.

The initiation of children:

Our Catholic Heritage RCL Benzinger 2013. This revision of the popular Heritage program serves as an entry-level text for children being initiated into the life of the Church. Separate Catechist Guides and student texts for elementary and intermediate grade levels.

* *A Child's Journey: The Christian Initiation of Children.* Rita Burns Senseman. St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1998. This book examines the challenges of adapting the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to children of catechetical age and offers solid, practical approaches for dealing with the special issues of the initiation of children.

* *Friends on the Way: Children's Catechumenate Resource.* Janet Miller. TeamRCIA. Everything your children's RCIA catechists need to feel confident they are teaching the faith of the Church.

* *Children and Christian Initiation.* Coffey, Kathy. Living the Good News. 1997-2002. (Leader's guide, parent/sponsor book, journal for children/youth.) This series includes practical suggestions on how to prepare a child for the rites of Christian initiation, including the involvement of parents and sponsors.

* *Children and Christian Initiation.* Kathy Coffey. Church Publishing Company. A guide to the catechumenae or RCIA process for children, with a Leader Guide, a Parent/Sponsor Guide and journals for older and younger children. A clear, practical approach with easy how-to steps that has been successfully used throughout the country.

Note: This list is not all-inclusive but it does provide essential reading for those involved in this ministry. There are many other resources available, but ministers and leaders familiar with the resources listed here will have a strong foundation on which to build a process that is life-giving to catechumens and candidates and to the parish as a whole.