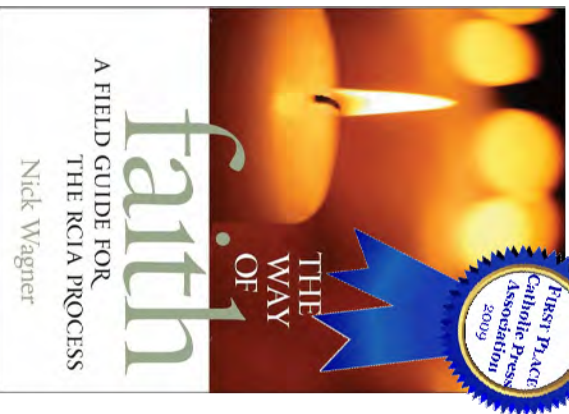




SIX STEPS TO MOVE YOUR RCIA PROCESS FROM GOOD TO GREAT!



Remember the initiation of catechumens is...		Then step up to the challenge	
1 a gradual process 2 that takes place within the community of the faithful. 3 By joining the catechumens in reflecting on the value of the paschal mystery 4 and by renewing their own conversion, the faithful provide an example that will help the catechumens to obey the Holy Spirit more generously. 5 The rite of initiation is suited to a spiritual journey of adults 6 that varies according to • the many forms of God's grace, • the free cooperation of the individuals, • the action of the Church, • and the circumstances of time and place. <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 4-5</i>		Start believing that we are initiating every day of the year.	
		Move the core initiation process outside the team and into the community (see RCIA 9).	
		Begin sharing your personal experience of the paschal mystery.	
		Move from imparting knowledge to entering into intimacy with the person of Jesus.	
		Use adult formation principles . Do not short-change the child catechumens with "RCIC."	
		Pay attention to the person in front of you . Account for differences between: • Unbaptized • Baptized, uncatechized • Baptized, catechized Don't put people in the RCIA who don't belong there: • Catholic confirmation candidates • Many Protestants • Returning Catholics	



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The Heart of Faith: A Field Guide for Catechumens and Candidates and

The Way of Faith: A Field Guide for the RCIA Process.

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1. Make a list of people you admire. They can be living or dead, fictional or real.
2. In a word or phrase, name what you most admire about each person on your list.

Who do you admire most?

What do you admire?

Further consequence	
Further consequence	Consequence

Further consequence	
Further consequence	Consequence

Further consequence	
Further consequence	Consequence

Roadblock

	Result
Solution	Result

	Result
Solution	Result

	Result
Solution	Result



EVANGELIZING AS JESUS DID

We need a church unafraid of going forth into their night. We need a church capable of meeting them on their way. We need a church capable of entering into their conversation. We need a church able to dialogue with those disciples who, having left Jerusalem behind, are wandering aimlessly, alone, with their own disappointment, disillusioned by a Christianity now considered barren, fruitless soil, incapable of generating meaning. ...

Are we still a church capable of warming hearts? A church capable of leading people back to Jerusalem? Of bringing them home? Jerusalem is where our roots are: Scripture, catechesis, sacraments, community, friendship with the Lord, Mary and the apostles. ... Are we still able to speak of these roots in a way that will revive a sense of wonder at their beauty? —Pope Francis, Meeting With the Bishops of Brazil

EXPERIENCE

Write a question that will help Jim name what happened.

UNDERSTANDING

Write a question that will help Jim name what he thinks about what happened.

PRESENT THE VISION

Imagine how Jim might answer and identify a connection to Scripture, the story of a saint, the Tradition, or your own experience as a Christian.

CRITICAL REFLECTION

Write a question that will help Jim him grapple with the tradition.

CONVERSION AND TRANSFORMATION

Write a question that helps Jim identify any change that has taken place in in heart.

DECISION

Write a question that will help Jim commit to live differently because of his experience.

Five inquiry discernment questions

Use these five questions to learn about the inquirer and to help you develop a specialized plan of formation for this person:



Regarding my habits, knowledge, and attitudes about faith...

1. Where have I been?
2. Where am I now?
3. Where do I want to get to?
4. How am I going to get there?
5. How will I know I have arrived?

First Gathering

Prayer and introductions (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

Where have you been? (20 min)

- When did you first become aware of God?
- If you're baptized, describe that event.
- When have you felt really close to God?
- What was your family experience of faith?
- What have been your significant relationships?
- Have you ever gone to church? How often?
- What was it like?
- Describe your knowledge of Jesus or the Bible. Do you own a Bible?
- What has been your image of God or Jesus?
- What has happened in your life that has led you to this moment?

Tell the inquirer your parish's story (10 min)

- Handout your Sunday bulletin.
- Talk about your parish's patron saint.
- Describe what you like about your parish.
- Describe the pastor, parish staff, and leaders.
- Tell about some parish committees, the parish website, special projects, etc.
- Describe the liturgies, schedule, character.
- Offer to meet the inquirer at Sunday Mass.

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer

Second Gathering

Gathering and prayer (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

Where are you now? (20 min)

- What is your image of God now?
- How often are you aware of God in your life?
- How often do you pray and what is it like?
- Do you go to church now? How often?
- Do you ever talk about God with anyone?
- Describe what that is like.
- What are your significant relationships now?
- What is your relationship with God like now?

Where do you want to get to? (20 min)

- What do you most hope for in your relationship with God?
- Is there someone (or was there someone) in your life you want to be like in your faith?
- Describe what it is about that person that makes you want to be like them.
- Describe what you hope to find in our parish.
- What attitudes or behaviors do you hope to change in yourself?
- What are your hopes for your family's faith?
- What area of knowledge or practice do you want to strengthen with regard to faith?

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer

Third Gathering

Gathering and prayer (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

How are you going to get to where you want to go? (20 min)

- In what ways do you need to develop your faith practices to get where you want to go?
- In what ways do you need to develop your relationship with God?
- In what ways do you need to develop your relationship with the church?
- How do you need your family to support you?
- How do you need the faith community at this parish to support you?
- How will you determine if your plan will get you where you want to go?

How will you know you've arrived? (20 min)

- How will you know if you've met your goal?
- How will your family know?
- How will others you interact with know?
- How will the people at this parish know?

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer

How we tell others about Jesus

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

Word	Community	Worship	Service



Event

an encounter with God

Conversion

how it challenges, confronts, affirms; why it matters; how will I live differently now?

Recollection

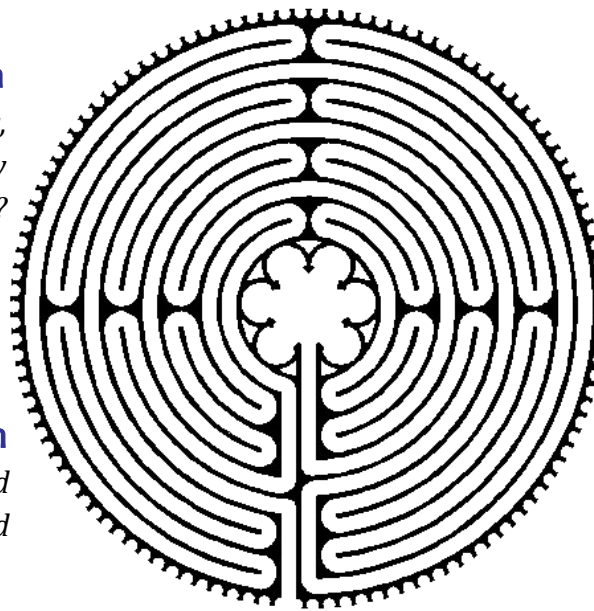
of the event's symbols, actions, texts; taking time to remember

Connection

to my life, to my situation and relationships, to the world

Reflection

sharing what was most memorable, engaging, discomfoting



Catechesis

*what Scripture and Tradition teach us;
what we can learn from the symbol, action, text*

Mystagogy is:

Ambrose of Milan's Method of Mystagogical Preaching, Craig Alan Satterlee, Liturgical Press, 2002

- scripturally based
- takes place within a liturgical setting
- addressed exclusively to the Christian community
- goal is formation of Christians rather than providing religious information to Christians

Sacramentum Caritatis, #64 (Pope Benedict XVI)

- corresponds interior disposition with our words and gestures
- enables us to live what we celebrate
- an encounter with Christ that
 - interprets rites in light of events of our salvation
 - presents the meaning of the signs in the rites
 - brings out significance of the rites for Christian life

Some mystagogical questions:

- What was your most memorable moment?
- What was your favorite part?
- What did you see/hear/do/feel?
- What did it mean to you?
- What does it remind you of from the Bible or from our Christian traditions?
- What does it tell you about God?
- What does it say about Christ?
- How did the rite communicate that?
- If that symbol could speak, what would it say to us about our faith?
- How does this change you?



SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR CATECHUMENATE TEAMS

All of these resources are available at teamrcia.com/catalog

Birmingham, Mary. *Year-Round Catechumenate*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2007.

Clay, Michael. *Harvest for God: Christian Initiation in the Rural and Small-Town Parish*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2007.

Dougherty, Rose Mary. *Discernment: A Path to Spiritual Awakening*. New York: Paulist Press, 2009.

Ferrone, Rita. *Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium (Rediscovering Vatican II)*. New York: Paulist Press, 2007.

Galipeau, Jerry. *Apprenticed to Christ: Activities for Practicing the Catholic Way of Life*. Chicago: World Library Publications, 2007.

Huels, John M. *The Catechumenate and the Law: A Pastoral and Canonical Commentary for the Church in the United States*. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2003.

Hughes, Kathleen. *Saying Amen: A Mystagogy of Sacrament*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2007.

Lewinski, Ron. *Guide for Sponsors*. 4th ed. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2008. (Also available in Spanish.)

Malone, Miriam, SNJM. *Enter the Rose: Retreats for Unfolding the Mysteries of Faith*. Chicago: World Library Publications, 2004

Morris, Thomas H. *The RCIA: Transforming the Church: A Resource for Pastoral Implementation*. New York: Paulist Press, 1997.

Ostdiek, Gilbert. *Mystagogy of the Eucharist*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2015.

Senseman, Rita Burns. *A Child's Journey: The Christian Initiation of Children*. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1998 (available only at TeamRCIA.com)

Steffen, Donna. *Discerning Disciples: Listening for God's Voice in Christian Initiation*. 2nd ed. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2004.

Turner, Paul. *When Other Christians Become Catholic*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press/Pueblo Books, 2007.

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