

## **OUTLINE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE RCIA MINISTRY AND THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

(adapted from the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Study Edition)

### PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE

This is a time, of no fixed duration or structure, for inquiry and introduction to Gospel values, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith.

**Do you have the time and talents to make visitors feel welcome among us?  
Do you feel called to minister through example the values of Christian faith?**

**Can you share the responsibility of hosts preparing refreshments?**

**Can you share your faith by sitting in on some of the sessions to make our visitors feel accepted and comfortable?**

**Can you call a friend and invite them to find out more about our faith?**

*Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God. (1 Chronicles 22:19)*

### FIRST STEP: ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on some annual date or dates, marking the beginning of the Catechumenate proper, as the candidates express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.

**Can you step up as a godparent or sponsor for a catechumen or candidate?**

**Can you mentor them and share your faith on a personal level?**

**Can you show our potential new Catholics what it's like to be part of a caring and faith-filled community?**

*I will praise you, O Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. (Psalm 9-1)*

### PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

This is the time, in duration corresponding to the progress of the individual, for the nurturing and growth of the catechumens' faith and conversion to God; celebrations of the Word and prayers of exorcism and blessing are meant to assist the process.

**Would you take the opportunity to share your story or family tradition?**

**Would you explain a typical Christmas, Easter or prayer pattern in your life?**

*Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, according to my*

*integrity, O Most High. (Psalm 7:8)*

#### SECOND STEP: ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, by which the Church formally ratifies the Catechumens' readiness for the sacraments of initiation and the Catechumens, now the Elect, express the will to receive these sacraments.

**As a godparent or sponsor, can you attend the Rite of Sending on Sunday morning and the Rite of Welcome with our prospective new members at Holy Name Cathedral downtown?  
Can you take the opportunity to encourage the Elect during this time of preparation and purification?**

*I call you by name and bestow on you a title of honor. (Isaiah 45:4)*

#### PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

This is the time immediately preceding the Elect's initiation, usually the Lenten season preceding the celebration of this initiation at the Easter Vigil; it is a time of reflection, intensely centered on conversion, marked by celebration of the Scrutinies and Presentations of the Creed and Our Father and of the preparation rites and all-day retreat.

**Would you pray for our potential new members?  
Can you support the Elect and calm their nervousness by answering questions about what it is like to celebrate Reconciliation?  
Would you consider inviting them to Stations of the Cross with you?  
Would you share a prayer experience in your own life? Maybe, what the rosary means to you or meditative prayer using a Scripture passage?**

*For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart. (Psalm 36:9-10)*

#### THIRD STEP: CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

This is the liturgical rite, usually integrated into the Easter Vigil, by which the Elect are initiated through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

**Will you be there when our new members are received into the Church?  
Can you share their joy and excitement?  
Can you help prepare the banquet of celebration for the reception afterwards?**

*You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your*

*God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. (Psalm 45:7)*

#### PERIOD OF POSTBAPTISMAL CATECHESIS OR MYSTAGOGY

This is the time, usually the Easter season, following the celebration of initiation, during which the newly initiated (now called the Neophytes) experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of pertinent catechesis and particularly by participation with all the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration.

**Can you be there to help our Neophytes as they explore the signs, symbols and experiences they witnessed during their initiation experience?**

**Can you be there to challenge our new members to use the new gifts and graces received by the Holy Spirit to call others to Christ through ministry?**

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"*

*And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)*

***Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks with compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His  
body.***

***Christ has no body now on earth but yours.***

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

**If this sounds like something you want to do (and who wouldn't want to share the faith of the Catholic Church with the whole wide world?), then please contact Deacon Lou and Ann Riccio at the parish office, 847-358-7760.**

**God Bless Us Every One!**