

Catechesis before the Easter Vigil

INQUIRY PERIOD (*before the Rite of Acceptance / Welcome*)

...this is the time for **INFORMAL CATECHESIS**: **EVANGELIZATION**
...Goal: + help the Inquirer prepare for the Rite of Acceptance / Rite of Welcome
+ Initial conversion

...Effective Tools:
+ **STORYTELLING / WITNESSING** – personal stories / bible stories / Church & parish stories
+ Church Tour
+ Introduction to the Liturgical Year and life of prayer
+ Hospitality

...Topics:
+ the “*Jesus Story*” - the “*Christian Way of Life*” (informal introduction)

CATECHUMENTE PERIOD (*after the Rite of Acceptance / Welcome*)

...this is the time for **FORMAL CATECHESIS**: **PASTORAL FORMATION**
...Goal: + help the Catechumen / Candidate prepare for the Rite of Election / Call to Continuing Conversion
+ Enliven / mature their Initial conversion

...Effective Tools:
+ **Liturgy of the Word** at Sunday Mass
+ **Breaking Open of the Word** ...reflecting on the Sunday Reading (**Faith Sharing**)
+ **Catechetical Session** ..Presentation of Catholic Doctrine based on the Sunday Readings
+ **Minor Rites and Apostolic Service**
+ **Reflection with Appointed RCIA Sponsor**

...Topics – from the **LITURGICAL YEAR** – Weekly Sunday Liturgy of the Word.
Some major topics that will arise throughout the Liturgical Year: comes from NCD: Sharing the Light of Faith, Chapter 5
+ Mystery of the One God (Holy Trinity)
+ Creation (God as Father)
+ Jesus (nature, mission, salvation)
+ Holy Spirit (presence, mission)
+ The Church (origins, titles, mission)
+ The Sacraments (general meaning, the 7 sacraments)
+ Life of Grace (original sin, personal sin, grace, conversion, repentance)
+ The Moral Life (call to holiness, conscience, Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, the sermon on the mount)
+ Mary and the Communion of Saints
+ Death, Judgment and Eternity

ENLIGHTENMENT/ PURIFICATION PERIOD (LENT) (*After the Rite of Election / Rite of Calling*)

...this is the time for more Formation in Spiritual Life: **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**
...Goal: + help the Elect / Candidate prepare for the Easter Vigil Celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist
+ Deepen Conversion

...Effective Tools:
+ **Liturgy of the Word** at Sunday Mass
+ **Breaking Open of the Word** ...reflecting on the Sunday Reading (**Faith Sharing**)
+ **Catechetical Session** ..Prayerful reflection on Catholic Doctrine based on the Sunday Readings
+ **Scrutinies or Sacrament of Reconciliation and Apostolic Service**
+ **Retreat / Day of Prayer and Reflection**

...Topics:
+ Sin and Forgiveness, Mercy, Compassion, Spiritual Renewal, Prayer, Examination of Conscience
+ Presentation of the Creed (Nicene or Apostle)
+ Presentation of the Our Father