

Introductory Training for the Catechumenate (RCIA)

Office of Adult Faith Formation - Archdiocese of New York

This training is intended to provide parish Catechumenate (RCIA) coordinators and team members with a general introduction to the basic principles and best pastoral practices of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (the Catechumenate).
(One Day – 6 hours)

The Learning Objectives:

a) Session One: **Overview of the Catechumenate:**

The participant will be able to demonstrate an understanding of :

- the general focus and goals of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- the paradigm shift in Christian Initiation
- the history of the Catechumenate process
- the order of Christian Initiation of adults
- who belongs in the Catechumenate

b) Session Two: **Understanding the Period of the Precatechumenate:**

The participant will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- the general focus and goals of the Period of the Precatechumenate
- a method of catechesis in the Precatechumenate
- discernment for the Rite of Acceptance and Rite of Welcome
- an outline of the Rite of Acceptance and Rite of Welcome
- an initial interview process

c) Session Three: **Understanding the Period of the Catechumenate:**

The participant will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- the general focus and goals of the Period of the Catechumenate
- various methods of catechesis in the Catechumenate
- doctrinal formation from the Liturgical Year.
- the Breaking Open of the Word session
- discernment for the Rite of Election and Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion

d) Session Four: **Understanding the Period of Purification/Enlightenment and the Period of Mystagogy:**

The participant will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- the general focus and goals of the Period of Purification and Enlightenment
- various methods of catechesis in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment
- the Scrutinies
- the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil
- the general focus and goals of the Period of Mystagogy
- various methods of catechesis in the Period of Mystagogy

e) Session Five: **Pastoral Issues with the Catechumenate (RCIA):**

The participant will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- who ministers in the Catechumenate
- what to do with persons with disabilities in the Catechumenate
- what to do with marriage, annulments and convalidation issues
- the criteria for determining a valid non-catholic baptism and confirmation
- what to do about Candidates from Eastern Churches
- some resources for the Catechumenate
- the general focus and goals of the Children's Catechumenate
- methods for catechesis in the Children's Catechumenate

**The resource books: +Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Study Edition, 1988
+R.C.I.A. / Catechumenate Handbook, 2018**