

Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

Suggested outline - Simple Version

For complete text with options... See RCIA 48 -68

Note: This Rite is usually celebrated within a parish Sunday Mass... but may be celebrated within a parish Liturgy of the Word service. This Rite may be celebrated at any time of the year.

If celebrated at a parish Sunday Mass... you may do the following:

The Inquirers with their appointed parish RCIA Sponsors stay waiting at the entrance of the Church building...either outside the church building or inside the church building in the Vestibule.

Entrance Hymn / Entrance Procession of Liturgical Ministers

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

Presentation of the Candidates

The Coordinator of the RCIA announces to the priest celebrant and to the community that there are inquirers waiting at the entrance for our welcome.

The priest celebrant (and the entire community, if so desired) process to the entrance of the church building to dialogue and welcome the inquirers.

Opening Dialogue

Addressing the inquirers individually:

Celebrant: What is your name?

Inquirer: **N.**

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church?

Inquirer: **Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.**

Addressing the inquirers together:

Celebrant: God is our Creator and in him all living things have their existence. He enlightens our minds, so that we may come to know and worship him. He has sent his faithful witness, Jesus Christ, to announce to us what he has seen and heard, the mysteries of heaven and earth. Since you acknowledge with joy that Christ has come, now is the time to hear his word, so that you may possess eternal life by beginning, in our company, to know God and to love your neighbor.

Are you ready, with the help of God, to live this life?

Inquirer(s): **I am.**

Addressing the RCIA Sponsors together:

Celebrant: Sponsors, you now present these candidates to us:
are you and all who are gathered here with us, ready to help these candidates
find and follow Christ?

All: **We are.**

Celebrant: Father of mercy, we thank you for these your servants.
You have sought and summoned them in many ways and they have turned to seek you.
You have called them today and they have answered in our presence:
we praise you, Lord, and we bless you.

All: **We praise you, Lord, and we bless you.**

Signing of the Candidates with the Cross

Celebrant: Come forward now with your Sponsors to receive the sign of your new way of life as
catechumens.

The celebrant says the following while he traces the cross on the forehead of each catechumen:

Celebrant: **N.**, receive the cross on your forehead.
It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with the sign of his love.
Learn to know him and follow him.

For the signing of the other senses ...see **RCIA 56**

Concluding Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray,
Lord, we have signed these catechumens with the sign of Christ's cross.
Protect them by its power, so that, faithful to the grace which has begun in them,
they may keep your commandments and come to the glory of rebirth in baptism.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Invitation to the Celebration of the Word of God

The celebrant next invites the catechumens and their sponsors to enter the church,

Celebrant: N. and N., come into the church, to share with us at the table of God's word.
All process to their seats.

The Penitential Rite (may be omitted)

Gloria (may be omitted)

Opening Prayer (may be omitted)

Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word follows as usual with all the readings of the particular Sunday Mass.

After the homily ... the Prayer of the Faithful (the Creed) is to be omitted.

Intercessions for the Catechumens

The catechumens and sponsors stand in front of the assembly.

Celebrant: These catechumens, who are our brothers and sisters, have already traveled a long road.
We rejoice with them in the gentle guidance of God who has brought them to this day.
Let us pray that they may press onwards, until they come to share fully in our way of life.

- That God our Father may reveal his Christ to them more and more with every passing day,
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- That they may undertake with generous hearts and souls whatever God may ask of them,
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- That they may have our sincere and unfailing support every step of the way,
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- That they may find in our community compelling signs of unity and generous love,
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- That their hearts and ours may become more responsive to the needs of others,
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- That in due time they may be found worthy to receive the baptism of new birth and renewal
in the Holy Spirit.
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer

Prayer over the Catechumens

With hands outstretched over the catechumens.

Celebrant: Let us pray.
Almighty God,
source of all creation, you have made us in your image.
Welcome with love those who come before you today.
They have listened among us to the word of Christ;
by its power renew them and by your grace refashion them,
so that in time they may assume the full likeness of Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Dismissal of the Catechumens

Celebrant: My dear friends,
This community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's table.

Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The catechumens, led by a catechist carrying the Lectionary, process out of the church building to another room for their dismissal catechesis (Breaking open of the Word session).

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins as usual with the offertory collection and procession.