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)

**CATECHUMENATE 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