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 Pre-catechumenate:**
   **The participant will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:**
   - the general focus and goals of the Period of the Pre-catechumenate
   - a method of catechesis in the Pre-catechumenate
   - 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:**
- R.C.I.A. / Catechumenate Handbook, 2018