

## **SOME RCIA REMINDERS**

"The rite of Christian initiation presented here is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts." **(RCIA # 1)**

"The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful." **(RCIA # 4)**

"As a general rule, the pastors should make use of the rite of initiation in such a way that the sacraments themselves are celebrated at the Easter Vigil and the rite of election takes place on the First Sunday of Lent." **(RCIA # 17)**

"The catechumens is an extended period during which the candidates are given suitable pastoral formation and guidance, aimed at training them in the Christian life. ...This is achieved in **four ways**:  
- suitable catechesis, ...become familiar with the Christian way of life and are helped by the example and support of sponsors, godparents, and the entire Christian community, ....suitable liturgical rites, ...work actively with others to spread the Gospel and build the Church by the witness of their lives."  
**(RCIA # 75)**

"The time spent in the catechumenate **should be long enough** - several years if necessary - for the conversion and faith of the catechumens to become strong." **(RCIA # 76)**

"During the period of the catechumenate there should be celebrations of the word of God that accord with the liturgical season and that contribute to the instruction of the catechumens..."  
**(RCIA # 81)**

"Gradually the catechumens should be admitted to the first part of the celebration of the Sunday Mass. After the liturgy of the word they should, if possible, be dismissed..." **(RCIA #83)**

"Since children who have reached the use of reason are considered, for purposes of Christian initiation, to be adults (canon 852:1), their formation should follow the general pattern of the ordinary catechumenate as far as possible, with the appropriate adaptations permitted by the ritual." They should receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, together with the older catechumens." **(National Statutes for the Catechumenate #18)**

"After the immediate mystagogy or postbaptismal catechesis during the Easter season, the program for the neophytes should extend until the anniversary of Christian initiation, with at least monthly assemblies of the neophytes for their deeper Christian formation and incorporation into the full life of the Christian community." **(National Statutes for the Catechumenate # 24)**

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

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and Confirmed by the Apostolic See - 1988