
THE NATIONAL STATUTES FOR THE CATECHUMENATE: AT-A-GLANCE
Approved by the NCCB for the Dioceses of the USA on November 11, 1986; Confirmed 1988

PRE-CATECHUMENATE

RCIA 36-43

1. Informal reception or welcome for inquirers

CATECHUMENATE

2. Term "catechumen" is restricted to those not baptized who have been admitted to the Order of Catechumens; "convert" for those converted from unbelief to Christian belief.
3. Never to be confused with baptized Catholics or other baptized Christians. RCIA 506
4. Always introduced into a parish setting from the very beginning
5. Bishop determines additional rites for Rite of Acceptance RCIA 44-46, 506
6. Period of Catechumenate for at least one year... RCIA 75, 81ff.
7. Comprehensive catechesis on the truths of Catholic Doctrine and moral life RCIA 75

CATECHUMENS

8. Catechumens seek blessings as members of the household of Christ; entitled to full Christian burial
9. Funeral liturgy for a catechumen
10. Marriage for a catechumen is Rite III of *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony* OCM 118-143

MINISTER OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

11. Diocesan Bishop is the proper minister of the sacraments of initiation; if he cannot, then at least the Rite of Election RCIA 12, 121
12. Priests who do not exercise a pastoral office and requirements to baptize, confirm Canon 883.2, 885.2
13. Priests who baptize must confirm (Canon 885.2); if Bishop wants to confirm, he must also baptize

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

RCIA 207-208

14. Adults and Children of catechetical age must receive all three sacraments of initiation at a single celebration
15. Paschal Fast of Good Friday and Holy Saturday Canon 1251, SC 110
16. Oil of Catechumens omitted at Easter Vigil RCIA 33.7
17. Baptism by immersion is the fuller sign of the sacrament, preferred

CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

RCIA 252-261

18. Children who have reached the age of reason considered as adults...appropriate adaptations to the rites

19. Sharing catechetical instruction with the baptized children; sequence of reception of sacraments never compromised

ABBREVIATED CATECHUMENATE

20. Abbreviated catechumenate only if permitted by the bishop, case by case *RCIA 331-339*
21. Initiation at Easter Vigil, if possible. Mystagogia to the extent possible

MYSTAGOGY

22. Neophytes [participate in the principal Mass on Sundays of the Easter Season as a body with their godparents *RCIA 248*
23. With Bishop as moderator...neophytes should embrace a deeper understanding of Baptism, Confirmation, and especially the Eucharist *RCIA 251*
24. Duration of this period is the Easter Season, then monthly until anniversary of initiation *RCIA 250*

UNCATECHIZED ADULT CATHOLICS

25. Some elements of the catechumenal process *RCIA 75*
26. Not recommended that Confirmation and Eucharist are to be celebrated at the same time as catechumens, but if so, they must remain distinct
27. Reconciliation celebrated before Confirmation and the Eucharist *RCIA 482*
28. Priest have faculty to confirm an uncatechized Catholic, but not in some cases
29. In those cases, priests may seek faculty to confirm from the diocesan bishop

RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION

30. Distinguishing candidates for reception from catechumens *RCIA 400-405*
31. Should not take part in rites meant for the baptized [specific rites mentioned]; should not be asked to undergo a full program parallel to the catechumenate *RCIA 75*
32. Reception of candidates at the Sunday Eucharist (and why)
33. Why reception should not take place at the Easter Vigil *RCIA 562-565*
34. Nevertheless... it can (using combined rite of Initiation/Reception)
35. Confirmation before Eucharist must be preserved; priest has the faculty to confirm if he has received the adult and is obliged to use it. "The Confirmation of such candidates for reception should not be deferred, nor should they be admitted to the Eucharist before they are confirmed." Bishop must reserve the rite of reception to himself if he wants to confirm all.
36. Celebration of reconciliation before Reception, Confirmation and Eucharist. *RCIA 482*
37. Reasonable doubt concerning baptism? Then baptize conditionally, privately, using those rites which the diocesan Bishop determines.