

Recommended OCIA Topics

The goal should not simply be to "cover material." The formation should lead adults through **conversion, discipleship, participation in the Church, sacramental life, moral transformation, prayer, and mission.**

The National Statutes specifically call for comprehensive formation rooted in Scripture, Catholic doctrine, the moral life, the liturgical year, and works of charity. These should be woven into the **liturgical year and the actual OCIA rites**, rather than presented as a conventional classroom course.

Evangelization and the Kerygma

- Who is Jesus Christ?
- God's love and plan for humanity
- Creation and the goodness of God's creation
- The Fall and the reality of sin
- God's covenant and plan of salvation
- Jesus' Incarnation, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Salvation through Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- Conversion and repentance
- Faith, trust, and surrender to God
- What it means to encounter Jesus personally
- Responding to the Gospel
- Christian discipleship
- The call to holiness
- Sharing one's personal testimony and the Gospel with others

This is especially important during the **Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate**, which the National Statutes describe as leading the person, through Scripture, prayer, and conversation, toward an encounter with Jesus Christ.

Sacred Scripture

- What is the Bible?
- Inspiration and revelation
- Old and New Testaments
- How the Bible fits together
- Salvation history
- Major Old Testament covenants
- Creation and the Fall
- Abraham and the patriarchs
- Exodus and Moses
- David and the prophets
- The promise of the Messiah
- The Gospels
- The life and ministry of Jesus
- The Passion and Resurrection
- Acts of the Apostles
- The Church's apostolic mission
- How to pray with Scripture
- Lectio divina
- Sunday readings and the liturgical year

Divine Revelation and the Catholic Faith

- Divine Revelation
- Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
- The Magisterium
- The Deposit of Faith
- The role of the Pope and bishops
- The Creed as a summary of Catholic faith
- The relationship between faith and reason
- Development and transmission of Catholic doctrine

The Trinity

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit
- The mystery of the Holy Trinity
- Creation
- God's providence
- God's love and mercy
- Human beings created in the image and likeness of God

Jesus Christ

- True God and true man
- The Incarnation
- Mary and the Incarnation
- Jesus' public ministry
- The Kingdom of God
- Jesus' teachings and parables
- Miracles and signs
- The Paschal Mystery
- The Cross
- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- Christ's Second Coming
- Jesus as Lord and Savior

The Holy Spirit

- Person and work of the Holy Spirit
- Pentecost
- Gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit and conversion
- The Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation
- Discernment
- The Holy Spirit's work in the Church
- Charisms and Christian service

The Catholic Church

- Why Christ established the Church
- The Church as the Body of Christ
- The People of God
- The four marks of the Church:
 - One
 - Holy
 - Catholic
 - Apostolic
- The communion of saints
- The role of the Pope
- The role of bishops
- Priests and deacons
- Religious life
- The vocation of the laity
- The domestic church
- The parish and diocese
- The universal Church
- The Church's missionary nature
- Ecumenism and relationships with other Christians

The Sacraments

- What is a sacrament?
- Sacraments as encounters with Christ
- Sacramental signs and grace
- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick
- Holy Orders
- Matrimony
- Sacramentals
- Sacramental participation and disposition

Particular attention should be given to the three Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism

- Original sin
- New life in Christ
- Death and resurrection with Christ
- Baptismal identity
- Baptismal promises

Confirmation

- Sealing with the Holy Spirit
- Gifts and fruits of the Spirit
- Christian witness
- Mission

Eucharist

- Real Presence
- Eucharistic sacrifice
- The Last Supper
- Mass
- Communion
- Eucharistic adoration
- Sunday obligation
- Full, conscious, and active participation

The Mass and Liturgical Life

- Structure of the Mass
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- The Eucharistic Prayer
- Holy Communion
- Liturgical signs, symbols, gestures, and postures
- Sunday worship
- Holy days of obligation
- The liturgical year
- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost
- The Liturgy of the Hours
- Sacred music
- Reverence and participation in worship

Mary and the Saints

- Mary as Mother of God
- The Annunciation
- Mary's role in salvation history
- Immaculate Conception
- Assumption
- Mary as model of discipleship
- Mary and the Church
- The communion of saints
- Saints as witnesses to Christ
- Canonization and sainthood
- Intercession of the saints
- Patron saints
- Relics and devotions
- The universal call to holiness

Christian Morality and Conversion

- Human dignity
- Freedom
- Conscience
- Sin
- Original sin
- Mortal and venial sin
- Grace
- Virtue
- The Ten Commandments
- The Beatitudes
- The Great Commandment
- The moral teachings of Jesus
- Formation of conscience
- Conversion of life
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Christian holiness

Catholic Moral Teaching

- Human dignity
- Sanctity of human life
- Marriage
- Family life
- Sexual morality
- Chastity
- Contraception and responsible parenthood
- Abortion
- Euthanasia and end-of-life issues
- Care for the poor
- Racism and human dignity
- Immigration
- Work and economic justice
- Care for creation
- Catholic social teaching
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Mercy and corporal/spiritual works of mercy

The objective should be **formation of conscience and conversion**, rather than simply presenting a list of rules.

Catholic Social Teaching

- Dignity of the human person
- Common good
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity
- Preferential concern for the poor
- Family and society
- Human rights and responsibilities
- Work and economic justice
- Peace
- Care for creation
- Life and human dignity
- Service and charity
- The Christian's responsibility in society

Christian Vocation and Discipleship

- Universal call to holiness
- Baptismal vocation
- Marriage
- Single life
- Priesthood
- Diaconate
- Religious life
- Lay vocation
- Family as domestic church
- Work as vocation
- Christian discipleship in daily life
- Stewardship of time, talent, and resources

Christian Service and Mission

- Corporal works of mercy
- Spiritual works of mercy
- Service to the poor
- Parish ministries
- Evangelization
- Missionary discipleship
- Sharing one's faith
- Catholic witness in the workplace
- Christian citizenship
- Service to the local community
- Continuing conversion after initiation

Mystagogy

Mystagogy should **not** be treated as an optional "post-Easter class."

Topics can include:

- What happened at Baptism
- Living one's baptismal identity
- Understanding Confirmation
- Understanding the Eucharist
- Reflecting on the Easter Vigil
- The experience of entering the Catholic community
- Prayer and Scripture
- Participation in Sunday Mass
- Reconciliation
- Discovering one's vocation
- Parish involvement
- Service
- Evangelization
- Continuing conversion
- Developing a lifelong Catholic spiritual life

Special Attention to Baptized Candidates

The OCIA process should **not treat baptized Christians exactly like catechumens**.

Formation should address:

- The dignity of their existing Baptism
- Their existing Christian faith
- Their previous Christian community
- The validity of their Baptism
- What they already understand and believe
- What is missing from their Catholic formation
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Reconciliation
- Catholic ecclesiology
- Catholic understanding of Scripture and Tradition
- Reception into full communion
- Appropriate discernment and preparation