

## KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. **OCIA** – Acronym for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is the formal process of formation of heart and mind preparing individuals to become a full member of the Catholic Church.
2. **Evangelization/Precatechumenate** – This is the beginning phase of the OCIA process in which an individual begins to inquire about the Catholic faith through individual research, conversations with priests or other Catholics, and attendance to mass. This phase can be understood as the tickling of one's interest in Catholicism before choosing to dive more fully into the conversion process.
3. **Catechumenate** – This is the second phase of the OCIA process. This is the phase in which an individual has confirmed in their heart that they would like to forward with this process after a period of inquiry and discovery.
4. **Purification and Enlightenment** – The final period before becoming fully part of the Catholic Church in which participants dive deeply into spiritual preparation leading up to their initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.
5. **Mystagogy** – The final period of OCIA after one has received the Sacraments of Initiation. This period is a continued formation on the graces received during the Sacraments conducted during the Easter Vigil.
6. **Rite of Entrance** – The first of the official ceremonies conducted during the OCIA process in which the Church community welcomes participants in OCIA into the catechumenate.
7. **Catechumen** – One who has participated in the Rite of entrance and officially begun the process of Catechumenate.
8. **Sacraments** – An outward sign of God's inward grace, each of which were instituted by Jesus Christ to assist one in their sanctification. There are seven sacraments in the Catholic Church divided into three categories, sacraments of initiation, sacraments of healing, and sacraments of service.
9. **Sacraments of Initiation** – These are the fundamental sacraments within Christian life, and incorporate individuals into the life of the Church.
10. **Rite of Election** – A formal ceremony as a piece of the OCIA process in which Catechumens are formally inducted into the elect by the bishop, signifying their readiness to receive the sacraments of initiation.
11. **Scrutinies** – These are ceremonies part of the OCIA process in which catechumens are prayed over for healing, strengthening, purification from sins, and reinforcing what is good.

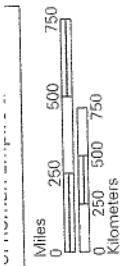
## RESOURCES

1. **Handbook of Prayers** – This handbook is a pocket spiritual guide that assists living your faith out more fully as a Catholic. The intro of the book consists of best practices or ways to live out your catholic identity more fully. It is followed by basic introductory prayers. That is followed by prayers throughout the day. Followed by prayers before, during, and after the mass. That is followed by prayers to say in the presence of the Eucharist in adoration. After that you will find a guide or examination of conscience prior to confession. That is followed by a series of devotional prayers dedicated to the Blessed Trinity, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, and Mary the Mother of God. Following that is a series of novenas asking for assistance and prayers from the saints. After that you will find a series of devotional prayers to Saint Joseph. After that you will find a series of different miscellaneous prayers such as praying before spiritual reading, before and after meals, and spiritual growth. The penultimate piece of the book includes prayers before death as well as prayers for the dead. It concludes with some blessings. It is spiritually rich and can be navigated on a whim.
2. **Bishop Baron's *An Introduction to Prayer*** – Bishop Baron's short introductory book into what is prayer, what are the types of prayer, and what are the prayer principles. The book answers those questions as well as walks readers through various forms of prayer – contemplative prayer, liturgical prayer, devotional prayer, and scriptural prayer. Where the handbook of prayer gives us ways to pray, this book offers answers to the question, why do we pray?
3. **Trent Horn's *Why We're Catholic*** – Catholic Apologist, Trent Horn, walks readers through some of the fundamental questions and answers surrounding Catholicism. He breaks down basic Catholic teaching into a digestible format. There are five parts within the book – Truth and God, Jesus and the Bible, The Catholic Church and the Sacraments, Saints and Sinners, and Morality and Destiny. Horn's book is formatted in a Socratic question and answer format, if you have a qualm or question about the Church, chances are Trent Horn will cover it in this book.
4. **The Mass/Welcome to Our Church Booklet** – This small booklet is a helpful resource to those that may not have ever gone to mass, or find themselves lost during the mass. It breaks down the different pieces of the mass including what is said and what physical actions need to be taken during the mass. On the flip side, the booklet gives a snapshot view of Catholicism as a whole. It helpfully depicts a church and the pieces of it, as well as the various people and gestures you might see at the mass.

# History of the Initiation Process

<b>Early Church</b>	Small communities that took individuals into their company and introduced them to their way of life. Religious persecution prevailed and so a strong faith was demanded in the face of possible martyrdom.
<b>100-200 AD</b>	Initiation began to take on formal shape and requirements ~ the beginnings of a <del>‡ F D W H F K X P H Q D W H · D O W N F A L L O F C E N T U R I E S</del> called for a more comprehensive formation in the Judeo-Christian tradition
<b>Third-Fourth Century</b>	Most developed structure (at least 3-year process). The Peace of Constantine in 315 AD made Christianity legal; now there were large numbers of candidates, but poor quality control. Although this was the time of the most developed structure, during this period there were a variety of models of initiation developed in the various local communities.
<b>Fifth Century</b>	Disintegration of the catechumenate occurred because large numbers of people were being baptized and the practice of infant became normative. In the West, Confirmation and Eucharist were separated from Baptism.
<b>Twelfth Century</b>	Catechumenate no longer existed. Elements of its transition into religious community formation and seminary training during the intervening centuries.
<b>Sixteenth Century</b>	Dominicans and Augustinians tried to counteract the mass baptisms. In 1538 an episcopal conference urged pastors to return to missionary principles of Alcuin and establish a catechumenate.
<b>Twentieth Century</b>	Revival of catechumenal structures in Africa and France. In France great problems arose because of the large numbers of non-practicing Catholics. In Africa, the White Fathers recognized the need to build the Church from the grass roots.
<b>Vatican Council II</b>	Called for reinstating the catechumenate. % L V K R S V ¶ Y R W H R Q U H V W R U D W L R Q R I W K H F D W H Yes = 2,165; No = 9; Null = 1
<b>Post-Vatican Council II</b>	<p>1966 –provisional ritual distributed</p> <p>1969 –second draft distributed for experimentation</p> <p>1972 –promulgation of the order of Christian initiation of adults by Pope Paul VI</p> <p>1974 –provisional English translation available titled <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i></p> <p>1986 –U.S. Bishops approved U.S. additions of the <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> and National Statutes and a National Plan of Implementation</p> <p>1987 –Canadian Bishops published the <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> for use in Canada.</p> <p>1988 –September –U.S. Bishops mandate implementation of final English translation of the <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>.</p>





RUSSIA

SCYTHIA

PHRYGIA

MACEDONIA

GREECE

INDIA

ASSYRIA

PERSIA

PARTHIA

INDIAN OCEAN

ETHIOPIA

EGYPT

AFRICA

ITALY

ROME

SPAIN

BRITAIN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

NORTH SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

RED SEA

