

Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Office of Worship and Office of Christian Formation presents

RCIA Study Day 2007

Formerly Known as the Winter Refresher

The Rite Right: Establishing a Continuous Catechumenate

This Year, we will hold 3 regional Study Days:

Saturday, November 3:
RCIA STUDY DAY CENTRAL
Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond

Saturday, November 10:
RCIA STUDY DAY WEST
St. Jude, Radford

Saturday, December 1:
RCIA STUDY DAY EAST
St. Thérèse, Chesapeake

AGENDA:

8:30- 9:00 a.m.
Registration

9:00-9:30
Opening Prayer : Rite of
Acceptance and Welcome

9:30-10:00
Model Dismissal Catechesis

10:00 break

10:20-11:20
Model Extended Catechesis

Noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch
(included in registration fee)

1:00-1:30
The RCIA Team

1:30-2:30
Model Schedule for a Year-
Round Process

2:30-3:00

**Closing Prayer: Call to Con-
tinuing Conversion**

In 1972, the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* was promulgated by Pope Paul VI. In 1974, the provisional English translation became available. The official English translation was mandated in 1988 for dioceses in the United States of America. From this point on, all adults or children of catechetical age who were to be baptized within the Catholic Church or received into full communion of the Catholic Church were to be part of the process of conversion and initiation as given in this rite. The year 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of this final and definitive English text of this rite of the Church.

Since the official implementation of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* in the United States in 1988, parishes in the Diocese of Richmond have worked hard to bring this rite of the Church to life.

We still, however, have much work to do, to make this rite a year-round process wherein catechumens, with the help of cate-

chists, sponsors, and the entire community of believers, journey with us for *at least one entire liturgical year*, sharing in the life of the community and doing what Christians do: reading the scriptures, gathering on Sundays with other believers, and bearing witness to the message of Jesus in word and deed.

In one sense, it is amazing to consider that the *Rite of Christian*

Initiation of Adults has been mandated for *only 20 years*. Of course, here in the Diocese of Richmond, many parishes have been using it since the provisional English text became available in 1974.

As we observe the 20th anniversary of the official English Translation (1988), we understand that we still have much to do to make the vision of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* a reality.

We invite your parish team to join us as we explore how this treasure of the Church can continue to enliven and inspire all those who approach the Church, as well as the faithful who welcome them.

An Apprenticeship in Faith: a Year (or More)?

Only after that year (or more) are the catechumens chosen ("elected") for initiation at the beginning of Lent, culminating at the Easter Vigil, where the elect are baptized, confirmed, and welcomed to the Lord's table.

Is your parish celebrating the rites right? Come to the RCIA Study Day and share your experiences!

Toward a Year-Round Catechumenate



Mary Birmingham, in her book, *Year-Round Catechumenate* (LTP, 2002) acknowledges that many of us in pastoral leadership “have been captivated by the vision of the year-round catechumenate as set forth in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA), but are prevented from implementing it fully by the seemingly overwhelming and unimaginable challenges of implementing this vision. But appearances can be deceiving. Far

from being overwhelming and unimaginable, implementing a year-round catechumenate is not only possible, but is also the best stewardship of the gifts and talents of potential initiation ministers.”

Twenty-plus years after the official implementation of the RCIA in our diocese, it has become obvious that the common practice of initiation in most parishes falls short of the vision as set

forth in the rite. We have certainly come a long way, but the race has only just begun.

The exciting part is that the journey presented in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* is one which is tailor-made for those who come knocking at our door, instead of the one-size-fits-all “program” still practiced in many parishes.

How do we make the transition? Come and see!

Who Should Attend? This day is for:

- Pastors & Clergy
- Worship Leaders & Teams
- RCIA Leaders & Teams
- Catechists & Sponsors
- Parish Staff

How Faithful is Your Parish to the Rite?

Here’s a just a sampling of questions to consider when assessing your parish’s celebration of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, with corresponding references:

Is a clear distinction made between catechumens (those who have not been baptized) and baptized candidates from other ecclesial traditions seeking full communion in the Catholic Church? (See Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA,) #400, National Statutes for the Catechumenate (NSC), #2, 30, 31.)

Do you celebrate the Rite of Acceptance Into the Order of Catechumens several times in the course of the Year? (RCIA, #18, 28.)

Do catechumens journey through at least one entire liturgical year before being considered for election? (NSC, #6.)

Are catechumens present at Sunday

Mass year round, and “kindly dismissed” before the Creed each Sunday throughout the year? (RCIA, #36, 75)

Are baptized candidates for full Communion received several times in the course of the year at Sunday Mass (after “instruction in the Catholic tradition and a degree of probation within the Catholic community”), and not at the Easter Vigil? (NSC, 31, 32, 33)

TO REGISTER:

1. List those from your parish who will be attending.
2. Attach payment. Cost is \$20.00 per person
Scholarships are available through the Office of Worship.
3. Mail to: Office of Worship

Catholic Diocese of Richmond
811 Cathedral Place
Richmond, VA 23220

Registration due by Friday, October 26, 2007.

Parish: _____

Please register us for the RCIA Study Day on:

Please check one:

- November 3 at Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond.
- November 10 at St. Jude, Radford
- December 1 at St. Thérèse, Chesapeake

Name(s)/Position (please print; make extra copies if necessary)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Parish Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed:\$ _____

Make checks payable to: Catholic Diocese of Richmond.