

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the
RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS
and the
RITE OF WELCOMING THE CANDIDATES

Note A: Providing some basic information can help parishioners with their full, conscious and active participation in the first rite of Christian initiation. Some examples follow these notes.

Note B: There are four related yet distinct celebrations provided in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The choice of rite is made on the baptismal status of the inquirers.

1. **UNBAPTIZED ONLY:** Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, nos. 41-74.
2. **UNBAPTIZED YOUNGER CHILDREN ONLY:** Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, nos. 260-276.
3. **BAPTIZED ONLY:** Rite of Welcoming the Candidates, nos. 411-433.
4. **BOTH UNBAPTIZED AND BAPTIZED:** [Additional (Combined) Rite] Celebration of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and of the Rite of Welcoming Baptized but Previously Uncatechized Adults Who Are Preparing for Confirmation and/or Eucharist or Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, nos. 505-529.

Note C: Language, and its proper use, is important. Here is a summary of key words and phrases that respects the baptismal status of those who are celebrating this first rite.

1. The **UNBAPTIZED** inquirer
 - is accepted into the order of catechumens;
 - is given the new name catechumen; and
 - begins formally the faith journey to the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, eucharist) that will be celebrated at some Easter Vigil.
2. The **BAPTIZED** but uncatechized Roman Catholic
 - is welcomed into the life of this parish community;
 - is called a candidate; and
 - seeks to complete Christian initiation through the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist that will be celebrated at some Easter Vigil.
3. The **BAPTIZED** member of a separated ecclesial Community
 - is welcomed into the life of this Catholic parish;
 - is also called a candidate; and
 - seeks to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church that will be celebrated at an appropriate time.

Example 1:
[week before
[the rite

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Next Sunday during the 00:00 AM Mass, the parish will accept and welcome more inquirers. By our prayer and support and welcome, they will formally begin the faith journey toward baptism and full communion with the Catholic Church. Come and pray with [names of inquirers] as they begin their formation in our Christian way of life.

Example 2:
[week of
[the rite

A BIGGER CHURCH

This weekend our parish membership grew again. As part of of the 00:00 AM Mass, we surrounded with our concern and prayers some people who are seriously exploring becoming one with us in faith.

We signed them with the cross of Christ and presented them with the life giving word of holy Scripture. They are asking us to train them in the Christian life we cherish. Give them good example. Invite them to parish meetings and events. Keep them in your prayers.

Example 3:
[week after
[the rite

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Last Sunday during the 00:00 AM Mass, the parish accepted [names of the unbaptized] as catechumens for baptism, welcomed [names of the baptized but uncatechized Catholics] as candidates for completing their Christian initiation, and also welcomed [names of the baptized Christians] as candidates for full communion.

They formally began the faith journey toward full Catholic Church membership. They now join our current catechumens [names] and candidates [names] in the weekly dismissal prayer and catechumenal catechesis. Please keep them in your prayers and acts of kindness.