

BEFORE THE PRECATECHUMENATE BEGINS

1. **DON'T MAKE THE INQUIRER WAIT TOO LONG.**
 - 1.1 God's grace is at work when an inquirer makes an initial contact with the parish Church.
 - 1.2 The longer the delay, the greater the chance for cold feet, disinterest, shyness, and/or fear to set in.
 - 1.3 Thus the value of an on-going inquiry, an on-going period of precatechumenate to be established in each parish.
2. **ACCEPTING THE FIRST KNOCK AT THE DOOR OR FIRST PHONE CALL.**
 - 2.1 Do it hospitably.
 - 2.2 If the RCIA interviewer can see the inquirer right away, so much the better.
 - 2.3 If not, get a name and phone number, and a convenient time for N., the RCIA interviewer, to return a phone call. [This seems better than saying: "Why don't you call N. at this number."]
 - 2.4 RCIA interviewer returns the call within 48 hours.
3. **ARRANGING THE FIRST MEETING, THE FIRST INTERVIEW.**
 - 3.1 Do it hospitably.
 - 3.2 Identify yourself, your parish, and why you are calling.
 - 3.3 Invite the inquirer to a personal meeting with you to talk further about his/her interest.
 - 3.4 Set a mutually agreeable day and time to meet. Try to arrange it within the next week, or two at most.
 - 3.5 Invite the spouse or fiancé(e) to also come.
 - 3.6 Give clear directions to the meeting site.
 - 3.7 Ask if there are any questions, concerns, issues the inquirer wants to address right now.
 - 3.8 Get a mailing address.
 - 3.9 Mail that same day a note or letter of: thanks for the interest, looking forward to meeting you, day, date, time, place (with map if helpful), your name and phone number.
4. **PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST MEETING, THE FIRST INTERVIEW.**
 - 4.1 Allow up to 60 minutes for this first meeting.
 - 4.2 Be hospitable.
 - 4.3 Do in a comfortable space: in chairs rather than at a desk or at a table. At the Church office rather than at home.
 - 4.4 Provide a nearby comfortable space for spouse or fiancé(e) to wait with something to drink and to do while you visit with the inquirer first. Then visit with the spouse or fiancé(e). Then visit with both together. Explain why.
 - 4.5 Bear in mind that some inquirers are "just looking," while others have already made the decision of "wanting more." Be flexible with the structure of this meeting.