

## ADULT INITIATION

- A. The term "catechumen" should be strictly reserved for the unbaptized who have been admitted into the order of catechumens (National Statutes for the Catechumenate, # 2).
- B. The term "candidate" should be used for 1) baptized Catholics who have not received catechetical instruction and whose Christian initiation has not been completed by Confirmation and Eucharist, and b) baptized Christians who have been members of another Church or ecclesial community and seek to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (National Statutes . . ., # 3, 25-37).

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- C. The period of catechumenate (and its parallel for candidates), beginning with acceptance into the order of catechumens and extending through the period of purification after election or enrollment of names, should last for at least one year of formation, instruction and probation (National Statutes . . ., # 6).
- 15. A. REGULARLY, THE RCIA SHOULD BE USED WHEN RECEIVING AN UNBAPTIZED MATURE PERSON INTO FULL COMMUNION IN THE CHURCH. INCLUDED ARE THE RITES OF THE CATECHUMENATE WHICH PREPARE THE ADULT FOR RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND THE EUCHARIST (cf. c. 851, #1).
- B. AFTER A PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE, UNBAPTIZED PERSONS BECOME CATECHUMENS BY MAKING THEIR DESIRE TO BECOME CHRISTIANS KNOWN TO THE CHURCH. THIS DESIRE SHOULD BE MADE PUBLICLY SO THAT THE CHURCH CAN EXPRESS HER RECEPTION AND ALSO FIRST CONSECRATION OF THE CANDIDATES. THE PREREQUISITE FOR MAKING THIS FIRST STEP IS THAT THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN TEACHING HAVE TAKEN ROOT IN THE CANDIDATES. THUS, THERE MUST BE EVIDENCE OF THE FIRST FAITH THAT WAS CONCEIVED DURING THE PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE AND OF AN INITIAL CONVERSION AND INTENTION TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES AND TO ENTER INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IN CHRIST. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE MUST ALSO BE EVIDENCE OF THE FIRST STIRRINGS OF REPENTANCE AND A START IN THE PRACTICE OF CALLING ON GOD IN PRAYER (RCIA, # 41-42).
- C. AN ADULT MAY BEGIN HIS/HER CATECHUMENATE IN ANY CHURCH AND RECEIVE CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM ANY PRIEST, DEACON OR QUALIFIED CATECHIST APPOINTED BY THE BISHOP (RCIA, # 13-16). THE NAMES OF THE CATECHUMENS ARE TO BE NOTED IN THE PARISH BAPTISMAL REGISTER AT THE TIME OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS.
- D. THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES IS ALLOWED IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WHEN THERE ARE GOOD PASTORAL REASONS. THE CELEBRATION USUALLY SHOULD OCCUR ON A SUNDAY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY (RCIA, # 331-399).
- E. ADULTS WHO WERE VALIDLY BAPTIZED, BUT WHO RECEIVED NO CATECHETICAL FORMATION, ARE TO BE SUITABLY PREPARED FOR THE RECEPTION OF CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST WITH A PERIOD OF PREPARATION PARALLEL TO THE CATECHUMENAL PROCESS (cf. RCIA, #400-504).
- F. THE DATE AND PLACE OF A CATECHUMEN'S RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION ARE TO BE NOTED IN THE

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BAPTISMAL REGISTER. SIMILARLY, THE DATE AND PLACE OF A CANDIDATE'S PROFESSION OF FAITH AND RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH, TOGETHER WITH HIS/HER BAPTISMAL INFORMATION, ARE TO BE NOTED IN THE BAPTISMAL REGISTER.