

A Bibliography for Christian Initiation

Basics

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Citta del Vaticano: Liberia Editrice Vaticana, 1997. *This is an essential resource for team members. It should not be used as a “text” for catechumens and/or candidates.*

Huels, John M. The Catechumenate and the Law. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994. *You need to have this book on your shelf and refer to it often.*

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1988. *Each member of the parish team for Christian Initiation should have a copy.*

Rito de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos. Washington DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1991.

Liturgy

Celebrating the Rites of Adult Initiation: Pastoral Reflections. Ed. Victoria Tufano. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1992. *Discussions on all the rites of the RCIA, including blessings and minor exorcisms.*

Commentaries: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Ed. James A. Wilde. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1988. *This is certainly not the most recent collection of essays on Christian initiation, but the authors are among the best of the early students of the Rite and their work is insightful.*

Corocan, Bill. Preparing the Rites of Initiation. Ottawa: Novalis, 1997; Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1997. *This little book provides good discussion questions but can be a bit confusing if people don't have a good, complete understanding of the initiation process.*

Milne, Mary K. Sunday Dismissals for the RCIA. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1993. *Dismissals are provided for all Sundays, Christmas, Easter Triduum, and some major feasts; separate dismissals are provided for each of the three Sunday cycles.*

Formation

A Catechumen's Companion: A Guide to Praying with the Lectionary. Ed. Robert M. Hamma and Donna M. Crilly. NY: Paulist, 1988, 1999. *Provides reflections on each Sunday's readings with suggestions for prayer and journaling.*

Anderson, Rev. William A., D. Min., Ph.D. In His Light. Dubuque: Brown-Roa, 1996. *Not bad if you're looking for a "book"; there is also a workbook entitled Journeying in His Light.*

Baumbach, Gerard F. Experiencing Mystagogy: The Sacred Pause of Easter. NY: Paulist, 1996. *The chapters of this book, written to be used by neophytes, each focus on a Sunday of the Easter season. While I probably wouldn't use it exactly as intended, there are some ideas here which would enrich mystagogy sessions during the Easter season.*

Birmingham, Mary. Year-Round Catechumenate. Chicago: Liturgical Training Publications, 2002. *This is a wonderfully practical book and especially valuable for parishes which do not yet offer a year-round process. The appendices alone are worth the price of the book.*

Breaking Open the Word of God: Resources for Using the Lectionary for Catechesis in the RCIA. Ed. Karen Himnan Powel and Joseph P. Sinwell. NY: Paulist Press, multiple dates. *There are three books in this series—one for each Sunday cycle. For each Sunday there are prayers, suggested themes, and suggestions for discussion and integration.*

Brown, Raymond E. Responses to 101 Questions on the Bible. NY: Paulist Press, 1990. *This is not an essential resource but could come in very handy if questions about Scripture and Catholic understandings of Scripture arise.*

Chriszt, Dennis, C.P.P.S. Creating an Effective Mystagogy: A Handbook for Catechumenate Leaders. San Jose, CA: Resource Publications, Inc., 2001. *A good study of mystagogy. Chapters four and five are probably the most immediately helpful for improving your mystagogy.*

Come Follow Me: Resources for the Period of Inquiry in the RCIA. Ed. Joseph P. Sinwell. NY: Paulist, 1990. *This book provides some suggestions and resources for making an on-going precatechumenate work in your parish.*

Cormier, Jay. Seed Sown: Themes and Reflections on the Sunday Lectionary Reading (Cycles A, B, and C). Kansas City MO: Sheed & Ward, 1996. *This book was written for homilists, teachers, and study groups. The commentaries on all three readings of the day, suggested themes and reflection questions provide a good resource for team members.*

Duggan, Bob et al. Foundations in Faith. Entire series. Allen, TX: Resources for Christian Living. *The books in this series are excellent, but expensive. I'd recommend getting one copy of each of the books to use as resources. Note that some pages, but not all, may be copied by the purchaser without paying an additional fee.*

Faley, Roland J. Footprints on the Mountain: Preaching and Teaching the Sunday Readings. NY: Paulist Press, 1994. *This is one of several good resources on the Sunday readings. I purchased this one because it's all in one volume and, therefore, a little less expensive than some others.*

Finley, Mitch. Living Scripture: Reproducible Lectionary-Based Reflections on Sunday Scriptures. Kansas City MO: Sheed & Ward, 1990. *I have Year B, and I know that Year C is also available (1991). These books were expensive when they were first published; if you can purchase them at a used book store, you might find them a good resource.*

Foley, Leonard, O.F.M. Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, nd. (4th ed.) *If you want "a book" for people to use, this is a good possibility.*

Galibeau, Jerry. Apprenticed to Christ: Activities for Practicing the Catholic Way of Life. Chicago: World Library, 2007. *This book will help you provide true catechesis—not theological studies—in your parish's RCIA process. Activities are suggested to coordinate with each Sunday's readings.*

Huebsch, Bill. Growing Faith Project. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2005. *The participant materials are attractive and correlated with the Catechism of the Catholic Church; the process in the facilitator's manual and the PowerPoint presentation are weak.*

Jones, Deborah M. The RCIA Journey: Resource for the Catechumenate. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1999. *Includes indices for years A, B, and C with topics.*

Kreeft, Peter. Catholic Christianity: A Complete Catechism of Catholic Beliefs Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2001. *The author is well-known and has written a very comprehensive book (426 pages) review of Catholic teachings based on the Catechism. Teams may find this resource helpful, but it most assuredly is not a "text" for the RCIA.*

Link, Mark, S.J. The New Catholic Vision. Allen TX: RCL, 1996. *This resource provides individual handouts on various topics. There is also a manual for team use. St. Anthony Messenger Press has a similar approach using Catholic Updates.*

Oakham, Ronald A. *et al.* One at the Table: The Reception of Baptized Christians. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1995. *Thoughtful treatment of questions concerning preparation of both catechized and uncatechized Christians for full communion.*

Pennock, Michael Francis. This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults. Notre Dame IN: Ave Maria Press, 1998. *This "text" has been used in some*

parishes; however, there are some places where teachings are represented as being in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, but are not found in the Catechism! I would not recommend this book.

Pollard, Rev. John E. Exploring Our Catholic Faith: Basic Teachings and Practices. Mission Hills, CA: Benziger Publishing Company, 1996. *This is not a good book to use for initiation catechesis.*

Powers, Isaias. Quiet Places with Jesus: 40 Guided Imagery Meditations for Personal Prayer. Mystic CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1978. *This book and a second one, More Quiet Places with Jesus, provide good resources for prayer and reflection through guided meditation.*

Ministries

A Catechumenate Needs Everybody: Study Guides for Parish Ministers. Ed. James A Wilde. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1988. *This book provides very complete guidelines for all the ministries which should be part of a parish RCIA.*

Bruns, William R. Guiding Your Parish Through The Christian Initiation Process. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1993. *Has a good question and answer section. N.B. There is also a long chapter on the liturgical rites.*

Finding and Forming Sponsors and Godparents. Ed. James A. Wilde. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1988. *Too frequently we undervalue sponsors and provide them with insufficient formation for their ministry. This little book is a good resource to help you form your sponsors.*

Hinman, Karen. How to Form a Catechumenate Team. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1986. *This is an old book, but has some helpful information concerning the roles need for a good team.*

Lewinski, Ron. Guide for Sponsors. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1993. *This is an old standard, which has been revised several times, and is still a very good resource for the ministry of the sponsor.*

Mick, Lawrence E. RCIA: Renewing the Church as an Initiating Assembly. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1989. *This book and the following one give good insights into the role of the entire parish in the initiation process.*

Morris, Thomas H. The RCIA Transforming The Church: A Resource for Pastoral Implementation. New York: Paulist Press, 1989.

Steffen, Donna. Discerning Disciples: Listening for God's Voice in Christian Initiation. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2004. *This new edition of a book RCIA directors have turned to for years offers new chapters dealing specifically with*

those who are already baptized and with children. This a good reference for team members and sponsors.

Turner, Paul. The Catechumenate Answer Book. San Jose: Resource Publications, 2000.

Children

Boucher, Therese M. Evangelizing Unchurched Children: A Pocketbook for Catechists. San Jose: Resource Publications, Inc., 2000. *A good little book for all catechists who work with children, not just those on Christian initiation teams.*

The Church Speaks about Sacraments with Children: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1990. *This volume brings together the major Vatican and U.S. documents that govern the Christian initiation of children.*

De Villers, Sylvia. Lectionary-Based Catechesis for Children. New York: Paulist Press, 1994.

Duggan, Robert D. and Kelly, Maureen A. The Christian Initiation of Children: Hope for the Future. NY: Paulist Press, 1991. *The questions for group discussion at the end of each chapter are a real plus for this book.*

Figgess, Sandra. Christian Initiation of Older Children. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990. *Don't be misled by the title. This book provides catechetical material best used with children between the ages of seven and twelve, at the oldest.*

Issues in the Christian Initiation of Children: Catechesis and Liturgy. Ed. Kathy Brown and Frank Sokol. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1988. *If you are going to buy one book about Christian initiation of children, it should probably be this one. The essays are excellent and wide-ranging.*

Journey of Faith. Ed. Shephali Graf. Liguori MO: Liguori, 1998. *This series of one sheet (11x14) hand-outs are available for both younger and older children and in sections for inquiry, catechumenate, Lent, and mystagogy.*

Long, Thomas L. and Emily F. Filippi. Children's Catechumenate. Dubuque: Brown-Roa, 1996. *This series includes a director's guide, a catechist manual, and separate books for primary, intermediate, upper levels.*

McBrien, Philip J. Children's Catechumenate: A Catechist's Guide. San Jose: Resource Publications, Inc., 1997. *This book includes two very helpful appendices, including over 20 handouts for family catechesis and guidelines for family interviews.*

Merritt, Sydney Ann. Guided Meditations for Child Catechumens. San Jose CA: Resource Publications, Inc., 2001. *There is good introductory material on how to use these meditations. Most of the 43 entries are for the periods of catechumenate and enlightenment, though there are also some for the precatechumenate and the period of mystagogy.*

O'Connor, Francine M. Handbook for Today's Catholic Children. Liguori MO: Liguori, 2002. *Although this little book was compiled with Catholic children and their parents in mind, you might find it helpful during the initiation process. It's best suited to middle grades.*

Senseman, Rita Burns. A Child's Journey: The Christian Initiation of Children. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1998. *Good, practical approach to initiation of children, including information on celebrating the rites and on discernment interviews.*

Senseman, Rita Burns. When Your Child Becomes Catholic: What Parents and Sponsors Need to Know. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2000. *A concise and complete little booklet.*

Assorted

Boyer, Mark G. Mystagogy: Liturgical Paschal Spirituality for Lent and Easter. NY: Alba House, 1990. *This book provides over 50 exercises which can be used by individuals or groups for on-going formation in the paschal mystery.*

“Catechumenate: A Journal of Christian Initiation.” Chicago: LTP. *This journal is published four times a year. Article topics include all aspects of Christian initiation, including commentaries on the Sunday scriptures. With the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, LTP also publishes Forum Essays, individual volumes dealing with specific issues in the implementation of the RCIA. Number Five would be of particular interest to parishes wishing to take a careful look at the liturgical rites.*

Clay, Michael. A Harvest for God: Christian Initiation in the Rural and Small-Town Parish. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2003. *This is a very valuable resource for both the periods and the rites. The appendices include catechetical session formats, themes from the Scriptures throughout the liturgical year, and other valuable aids.*

Handbook for Today's Catholic. Liguori MO: Liguori, 2004. *In the past I used this little book with neophytes, but you might also find it useful for all stages of the RCIA. The revised edition is fully indexed to the Catechism and is inexpensive. It has very good presentations on beliefs, practices, prayers, and living in faith.*

Living Liturgy: Spirituality, Celebration, and Catechesis for Sundays and Solemnities, Year A 2011 and Year B 2018. (both currently available) Ed. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S. et al. Collegeville MN: Liturgical Press. *This is a trusted annual publication. The volume includes a format for small group use (good for catechumenate or even mystagogy). Each week's entry includes reflection on the Gospel and points on living the Paschal Mystery today, in addition to other information.*

Marthaler, Bernard. The Creed: The Apostolic Faith in Contemporary Theology. Mystic CT: Twenty-third Publications, 1999. *For the occasional catechumen or candidate who wants to know everything. This book should satisfy the most academic; it is several levels beyond what most people need or want!*

Mazza, Enrico. Mystagogy: A Theology of Liturgy in the Patristic Age. Trans. Matthew J. O'Connell. NY: Pueblo Publishing Co., 1989. *This is an academic text, but it does offer an interesting look at a number of early mystagogical homilies.*

Mick, Lawrence E. RCIA: How Are We Doing? Allen TX: RCL, 1999. *This is a self-assessment tool for use in the parish. If you're interested in looking at this resource before purchasing it, the Office for Lay Ministry can provide you with a copy for review.*

O'Connor, Francine M. Handbook for Today's Catholic Children. Liguori MO: Liguori, 2002. *Although this little book was compiled with Catholic children and their parents in mind, you might find it helpful during the initiation process. It's best suited to middle grades.*

Regan, David. Experience the Mystery: Pastoral Possibilities for Christian Mystagogy. Collegeville MN: Liturgical Press, 1994. *Although this book is not light reading, it does introduce interesting and important concepts, e.g. the need for the person guiding mystagogy to understanding the culture of the neophytes. This would apply not only to traditionally recognized cultural groups, but also those belonging to the youth culture today.*

The Baptismal Catechumenate: An Inspiration for All Catechesis. Ed. Joseph P. Sinwell. Washington, DC: National Catholic Educational Association, 2002. *Every parish should have the book; Chapter 1 outlines catechetical principles.*

Turner, Paul. The Hallelujah Highway: A History of the Catechumenate. Chicago: Liturgical Training Publications, 2000. *The author reviews the history of initiation in the Catholic Church through chapters on key historical figures and documents. The book may provide interesting reading and insights to team members.*

“Called and Gifted” is a diocesan four-part video-based discussion of the U.S. Bishops’ document “Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium.” It is appropriate for use during mystagogy. Contact the Office for Lay Ministry.

Web sites

<http://teamrcia.com/> TeamRCIA.com provides free online resources for Christian initiation ministries in parishes. In addition to free articles and conversations, the site provides, usually for a fee, online training for RCIA team members. You can also purchase print resources, both those from other publishers and those developed specifically for TeamRCIA, through this site.

www.naform.org North American Forum on the Catechumenate. This organization is dedicated to the full implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation and offers quality training opportunities for RCIA team members. Helpful articles can be found in their newsletter, which is published three times per year. You can view the newsletters at <http://www.naforum.org/wordpress/newsletter/> or sign up as a member of Forum and have newsletters e-mailed to you. The Forum website offers links to Institute descriptions, schedules, and registration. Please keep in mind that diocesan Pearl Streb Powers scholarships are available to help you and your parish pay for Institute participation.

PLEASE NOTE: This bibliography is not meant to be exhaustive. It certainly does not include all the good resources that are available to help you make your parish RCIA even better.

New resources continue to come on the market. Several publishers now have e-materials available, although I have had some difficulty getting these materials for review purposes. When a company's promotional materials are difficult to use, I question whether or not they would provide ease of use for parishes, teams, participants. I would strongly suggest that you not pay for use before seeing a complete copy of what a company is presenting.