



OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

PARISH LIFE & EVANGELIZATION

WELCOMING NEW DISCIPLES:

DETERMINING THE PATH TOWARD FULL INITIATION FOR ADULTS

As we welcome new disciples into our parish communities, it can become confusing to determine what track/process to enter adults into for Sacramental initiation into the Catholic Church. Below is an outline for the three general categories of individuals and their process toward entering or completing their Initiation.

Individual Circumstances	Typical Formation toward Full Initiation
<p>Catechumens: Unbaptized (age 7+), Non-Christians / Not Catholics</p> <p><i>Seeking: Baptism, Confirmation, & First Communion</i></p>	<p><i>RCIA: Catechumens enter into the full RCIA Catechumenate Process (typically lasting at least one full year), leading towards all three Sacraments of Initiation locally by their Parish Priest at the Easter Vigil. They are accompanied initially by a parish sponsor, then Godparent.</i></p>
<p>Candidates (for Full Communion): Baptized Christians (age 7+), but not Catholics*</p> <p><i>Seeking: [Reception into the Catholic Church (Profession of Faith)] and both Confirmation & First Communion</i></p> <p><i>*: or those baptized Catholic yet were raised in a Non-Catholic religion as a youth (no First Communion or Confirmation); or formally renounced the Catholic Church.</i></p>	<p><i>RCIA: Candidates for the Full Communion of the Catholic Church enter into an abridged RCIA process (typically one full year or less) focused on preparing for reception into the Church with their Profession of Faith and the remaining two Sacraments of Initiation with their Parish Priest, typically during the Easter Season. They are accompanied by a Sponsor.</i></p>
<p>Confirmation-Only Candidates: Catholics* (age 18+) who have been Baptized and have received First Communion, but not Confirmation.</p> <p><i>Seeking: Confirmation Only</i></p> <p><i>*: including Catholics who on their own decided to stop practicing their faith and have since returned to practicing the Catholic faith.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult Catholics who, for whatever reason, were not Confirmed as a youth are welcomed to be prepared for the Sacrament either by a Parish or Diocesan Confirmation formation process (typically several months). They are confirmed by the Bishop (or his representative) at a parish Confirmation or a Diocesan Confirmation. They are not considered part of RCIA and are not confirmed at the Easter Vigil.</i></p>

Every individual seeking Initiation has a different life story and experience. It is important that their formation enables them to become life-long practicing Catholics and missionary disciples. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Divine Worship with any questions. Thank you for your ministry!

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