

OCIA:
PERIOD OF
EVANGELIZATION
AND
PRECATECHUMENATE

Workshop Series, Part 1
Thursday, 9 OCT 2025

Questions? Contact us!

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OPEN MY EYES

Jesse Manibusan



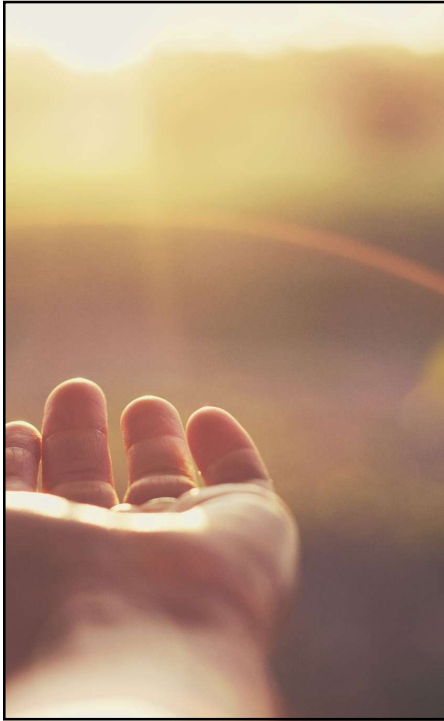
1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
4. I live with - in you. Deep in your heart, O Love.



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.
4. I live with - in you. Rest now in me.

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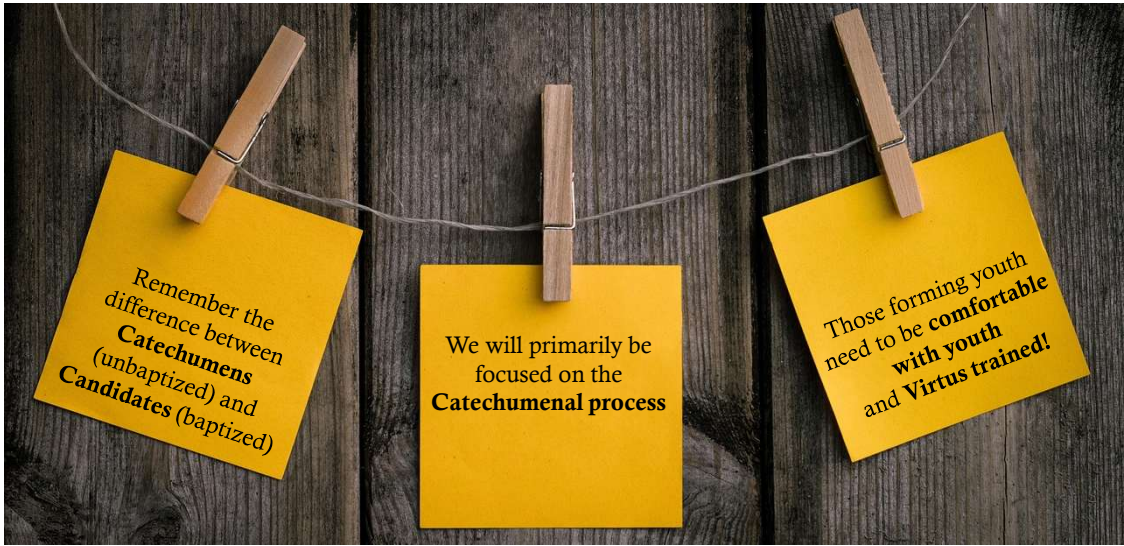
OPENING PRAYER

O God, who sent your Son into the world as the true light,
pour out, we pray, the Spirit he promised
to sow seeds of truth constantly in people’s hearts
and to awaken in them obedience to the faith,
so that, being born to new life through Baptism,
all may become part of your one people.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen!

(Collect from Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples)

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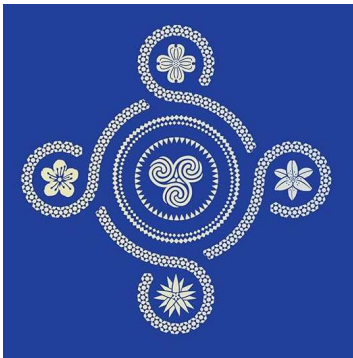
SOME REMINDERS



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INTENT OF THE PRECATECHUMENATE



“From evangelization, carried out with God’s help, arise faith and initial conversion, by which each person feels called away from sin and into the profound mystery of divine love. The entire Period of the Precatechumenate is devoted to this evangelization, so that the will to follow Christ and to seek Baptism may mature.” OCIA #37

- A suitable explanation of the Gospel should be given.

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INTENT OF THE PRECATECHUMENATE

For Children and Youth:

- The intentions are the same, but the explanations might look different.
- Focus on the kerygma.
- Youth may be brought by parents or other adults, requiring some explanation to them of why they are there.
- Remember this is for children 7 and up.

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Encounter Christ

Pre-Catechumenate

"Inquirer"

- + exploration
- + discernment
- + varying length of time
- + supported by member of faith

RITE for ENTRANCE

BUILD THE TEAM

Characteristics

- Good at seeing the good in people
- Unflappable
- Good listener / Attentive
- Able to share their faith / use God language
- Comfortable praying with people
- Can think on the fly / respond well
- Appropriately able to Encourage / Share / Germinate
- Positive / optimistic / joyful (this attracts people)

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BUILD THE TEAM

For Children and Youth:

- Many of the same qualities as for adults...
- Definitely someone who is comfortable with children and has some understanding of development (parent, teacher, catechist, etc.)
- Unflappable is very important, along with patient
- Also must be able to think on the fly/respond well
- Works with variety of approaches
- Gentle
- Sense of humor

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HOW TO FIND INQUIRERS

God puts people in our path that may not know they are interested – attentive listeners recognize what they are not saying
– *sometimes we help put words to what someone is expressing*

- Pay attention to who is at Mass (and who is receiving Communion)
- Proactively look at sacramental records – don't just wait for someone to come forward!
 - Recent marriages where one spouse is not Catholic
 - Recent baptisms where one of the parents is not Catholic
 - When meeting with parents for sacraments or other reason, they may mention they are not in a valid marriage (or other situation) – explore why
- As new folks register to join the parish, pay attention

PERSONAL INVITATION



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FINDING YOUNG INQUIRERS

- Often will come along with adults who inquire
 - In our Catholic schools – non-Catholics who express interest or connection
 - About 40% of the school population is non-Catholic
 - Adult inquirers might come with children
 - Young inquirers might come with adults
 - Check sacramental records of those coming forward for Sacraments of Initiation
 - Enlist the help of parents of Catholic school children and those in faith formation! (Empower them to know how to respond if the subject comes up.)
 - We are not exactly searching them out at this age, but we should **be attentive** to opportunities and possibilities
-

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10:00


LET'S TAKE A BREAK!

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WHAT TO ASK ONCE YOU
HAVE INQUIRERS

The Early Questions

- What draws you here? Why?
- What (if any) relationship do you have with God?
(This could vary a lot: formal / informal / real)
- Where do you hope this leads you?



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WHAT TO ASK YOUNG INQUIRERS
(AND THEIR PARENTS)


• Ask children what they like about the faith they are seeing; who is God in their life; would they like to learn more about God?

• Ask parents what they hope for their child's faith life; how do they feel about their child's interest in the faith?

• One thing to consider is that it **varies with age**. *Your questions will be different for very young children than for young teens. As you get to know them, their level of maturity will be made known.*


• Younger ones might be less future-oriented.

• Older children begin to have a sense of themselves as emerging adults.



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DISCERNING READINESS TO MOVE ON



How do we know they are ready to move to the next period?

What does the transitional ritual ask?

• What do you ask of the Church?

• What does that offer you?

• Are you ready to set out on the path toward living the life of a Christian disciple?

• Sponsors and Assembly – are you prepared to help them find Christ and follow him?

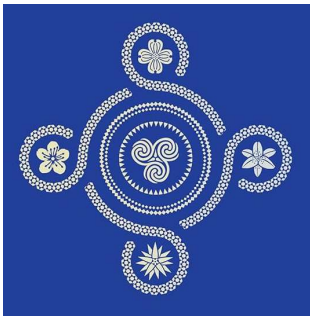
(See OCIA#50)

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EVIDENCE THE INQUIRER IS READY TO MOVE ON: OCIA #42



- The first faith conceived
 - An initial conversion and a desire to change their lives and enter a relationship with God in Christ
 - A consequent beginning of a sense of penitence and of a habit of calling on God and of prayer
 - A sense of the Church (community)
 - A first experience of the company and spirit of Christians through contact with a Priest or some members of the community
 - Preparation for this liturgical order – wanting to continue the process
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DISCERNING READINESS TO MOVE ON

When they can authentically answer the questions that the transitional ritual asks

- Give credence to their path – they may have been inquirers for a while (ex. married spouse coming to church to support the children)

The journey so far is part of it!

- More than just an intellectual pursuit – **PRAY WITH THEM!**

You will see transformation



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DISCERNING READINESS TO MOVE ON

- They begin to be able to express an interest in God that is different than informational – that is, there seems to be some **connection or pull towards God**
- Evidenced in words but also the pictures they draw
- Examples: “The Fidgeter” and “Seraphina”

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Encounter Christ

Pre-Catechumenate

“Inquirer”

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- + discernment
- + varying length of time
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RITE for ENTRANCE

TRANSITIONAL RITUAL

Rite for Entrance Into the Catechumenate

- What does this Rite look like? – see deep dive analysis
- When is it celebrated? – you could be hindering growth if you make them wait until a specific date
- Be open to multiple celebrations of it*
- Where is it celebrated?

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RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

For Children and Youth:

- Especially ages 7-10 unsure what you get, fidget-wise
 - Appropriate to celebrate outside of Mass – but with some part of community present
 - Adjust to the folks involved – Sunday morning? Weeknight? At school if only school children are involved?
 - Symbolic, physical things are effective (still sign the senses)
 - Apart from the adult ritual, use the Children's Lectionary
 - Perhaps have older (already initiated) children help – they can serve as readers
 - When a whole family is involved in receiving the ritual, children may benefit from celebrating with their parents
-

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RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

For Children and Youth:

- Use music – appropriate to age
 - Be attentive to the length of the rite with children.
 - Less movement is better for children
 - Can shorten signing of the senses
 - Work with the celebrant
 - For optional rituals, it may be best to limit these for children especially those who are younger, in the fear that it might extend the rite too long.
 - Presentation of the Gospel and/or the cross may be appropriate and add meaning.
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CELEBRATE IN THE PARISH!







Photos

Bulletins & Newsletters

Social Media






IT'S NOT JUST THE EASTER VIGIL THAT MATTERS!

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QUESTIONS?



Encounter Christ

Pre-Catechumenate

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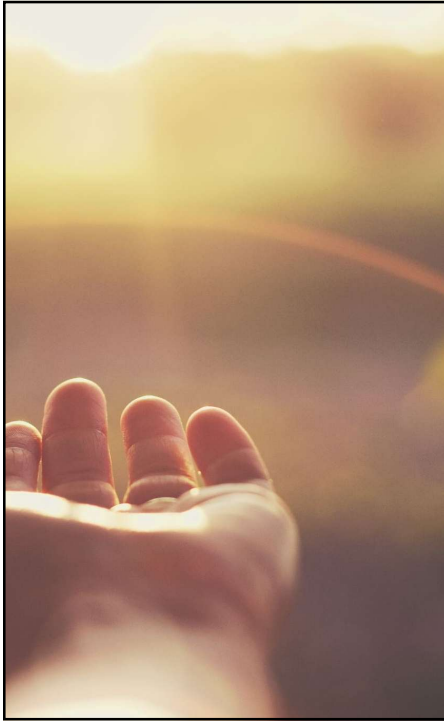
RITE for ENTRANCE



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CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,
Father of all creation,
who made man and woman in your own image,
welcome your beloved ones who seek to take the next step,
and grant that, hearing the word of your Christ among us,
they may be made new by its power,
and by your grace attain at last
complete conformity with him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen!

(Concluding Prayer from Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate, adapted)

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ENTER THE JOURNEY

Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt

Refrain

En - ter the jour - ney. Come to the song. By God
you are cho-sen, by name you are called to fol - low the vi -
sion, car - ry the cross. En - ter the jour - ney of
faith as the fam - 'ly of God.

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