

RCIA

In 1988, the Catholic bishops of the United States directed that adults becoming Catholic do so with the process set forth in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The RCIA stresses the connection between the three sacraments of Christian Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. During the Easter vigil, the elect are welcomed into the Church and receive these sacraments. In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. Through the water of baptism, candidates share in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the newly baptized (or neophytes) are anointed by the celebrant with chrism (holy oil). Confirmation celebrates God's special gifts and strengthens those who have been baptized. The fullness of the Holy Spirit is received. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Neophytes receive the Body and Blood of Christ. They share the gift of the Bread of life and the Cup of Salvation, which deepens their initiation throughout their lives. The RCIA process includes various periods marked by liturgical rites. The process welcomes, forms and instructs those who are interested in the Catholic faith. Families with children and teens are encouraged to participate in a process that is adapted for unbaptized teens and children over the age of seven. The Church encourages anyone who is interested in knowing about the faith of the Catholic Church, its traditions and doctrines, to begin by attending the Inquiry Period of the RCIA. The Inquiry Period offers the opportunity to journey with others by asking questions; reflecting on Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church and sharing personal experiences. Candidates or Inquirers may be: UNBAPTIZED who wish to explore the teachings of the Catholic faith with the possibility of joining; or BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who want to learn about the Catholic faith and wish to become Catholic; or BAPTIZED CATHOLICS who now want to complete their sacramental initiation by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.