



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

EPISODE 2: PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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.

From the Ritual

42. In order for them to take this step, it is necessary for the beginnings of a spiritual life and the foundations of Christian doctrine to have been planted in the inquirers, namely: the first faith conceived during the Period of the Precatechumenate; 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; a first experience of the company and spirit of Christians through contact with a Priest or some members of the community; and preparation for this liturgical order.

Scripture

Scripture Reference: Psalm 63:2

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.

From the Ritual

50. **Celebrant:** What is your name?

The one entering: Name.

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church?

The one entering: Faith.

Celebrant: What does faith offer you?

The one entering: Eternal life.

Scripture & Sacred Art

Artwork: *Christ and the Samaritan Woman at the well*, Angelica Kauffman.



Scripture Reference: John 4:5-26

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,
near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
Jacob's well was there.
Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.
It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.
Jesus said to her,
"Give me a drink."
His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.
The Samaritan woman said to him,
"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"
—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—
Jesus answered and said to her,
"If you knew the gift of God
and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink, '
you would have asked him
and he would have given you living water."

Scripture Reference: John 4:5-26 (continued)

The woman said to him,

"Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep;
where then can you get this living water?
Are you greater than our father Jacob,
who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself
with his children and his flocks?"

Jesus answered and said to her,

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;
but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him,

"Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her,

"Go call your husband and come back."

The woman answered and said to him,

"I do not have a husband."

Jesus answered her,

"You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.'"

For you have had five husbands,
and the one you have now is not your husband.
What you have said is true."

The woman said to him,

"Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.

Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;
but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her,

"Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You people worship what you do not understand;
we worship what we understand,
because salvation is from the Jews.
But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;
and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.
God is Spirit, and those who worship him
must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to him,

"I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;
when he comes, he will tell us everything."

Jesus said to her,

"I am he, the one speaking with you."

From the Ritual

75.3. "[The Catechumens] are assisted on their journey by Mother Church with suitable liturgical rites and by them they are now gradually cleansed and sustained with divine blessing. It is appropriate to promote Celebrations of the Word for them to attend, and indeed they themselves can already come to the Liturgy of the Word with the faithful to prepare themselves better for their future participation in the Eucharist."

Reflection Questions

- Jesus thirsts for the faith of the Samaritan woman. How does Christ thirst for us? How do we thirst for him? In what ways does this thirst manifest itself?
- During the Rite for Entrance, the priest asks "what does faith offer you?" Considering the blessings in your own life, how would you answer that question?
- As we accompany those in the Catechumenate, what can learn from Christ by how he dialogues with the Samaritan woman?

Citations

- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (Totowa, New Jersey: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2024), nos. 42, 50, 75.
- Kauffmann, Angelica. Christ and the Samaritan Woman at the well. 1796. Neue Pinakothek, Munich, Germany. Public domain.
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