

Christian Initiation (RCIA)

An Overview of the Process





Christian Initiation

- Ritual Book
- Process



Christian Initiation

- Ritual Book
 - *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (1988)
 - *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (2023)



Christian Initiation

- Process
 - Christian Initiation
 - Catechumenal Ministry
 - Initiation Ministry



Christian Initiation

- *Sacrosanctum Concilium*
- *Christian Initiation, General Introduction*
- *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Introduction*
- *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*



Christian Initiation

Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 64

The catechumenate for adults, comprising several distinct steps, is to be restored and to be taken into use at the discretion of the local ordinary. By this, means the time of the catechumenate, which is intended as a period of suitable instruction, may be sanctified by sacred rites to be celebrated at successive intervals of time.



Christian Initiation

Christian Initiation, General

Introduction, no. 1

In the sacraments of Christian initiation we are freed from the power of darkness and joined to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. We receive the Spirit of filial adoption and are part of the entire people of God in the celebration of the memorial of the Lord's death and resurrection.



Christian Initiation

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Introduction, no. 1

The rite of Christian initiation presented here is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully.



Overview of the Initiation Process

- Precatechumenate / Inquiry
- Rite of Acceptance
- Catechumenate
- Rite of Sending / Rite of Election
- Purification and Enlightenment
- Initiation Sacraments
- Mystagogy



Periods of Initiation Process

Precatechumenate / Inquiry

- Called inquirers
- Opportunity to explore the basic doctrines of the faith
- Informal setting – no set schedule of topics
- Sharing of personal stories – what brought them here
- Directed by the needs of the inquirers
- Duration as long as needed



Rites of Initiation Process

Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

- For unbaptized inquirers
- Occurs after discernment by team, pastor and inquirer as to readiness to explore deeper into faith
- Now called **catechumens**



Periods of Initiation Process

Catechumenate

- Follows **Rite of Acceptance**
- Called catechumens
- More formal period of instruction
- Dismissed from liturgy after homily
- Explore the connection between word and treasury of faith
- Deeper look into Catholic teachings
- Duration as long as needed



Rites of Initiation Process

Rite of Sending / Enrollment of Names

- Used to send catechumens from parish to bishop
- Catechumens sign the **Book of the Elect**



Rites of Initiation Process

Rite of Election

- Currently takes place at 3 Locations
- Affirm their commitment to receive sacraments at Easter Vigil
- Bishop accepts their commitment and signs the Book of the Elect
- Now called **The Elect**



Periods of Initiation Process

Purification and Enlightenment

- After **Rite of Election**
- Called the elect
- More retreat like setting
- Focus on spiritual growth
- Explore thirsts, blindness, and deaths in life
- Duration usually the season of Lent



Rites of Initiation Process

Sacraments of Initiation

- Usually takes place at the Easter Vigil
- Baptism
- Confirmation – *never to be delayed*
- Eucharist
- Now called **neophytes**



Periods of Initiation Process

Mystagogy

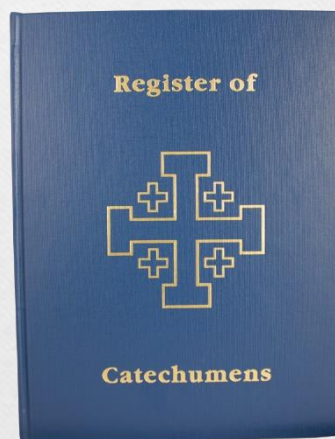
- Occurs after reception of **Sacraments at Easter Vigil**
- Called neophytes
- Informal setting again
- Connect life to liturgy of word and Eucharist
- Time to explore even deeper into the treasury of faith
- Duration is through the season of Easter



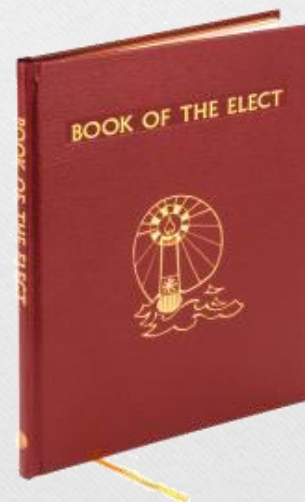
More information

Registers

Register of Catechumens



Book of the Elect

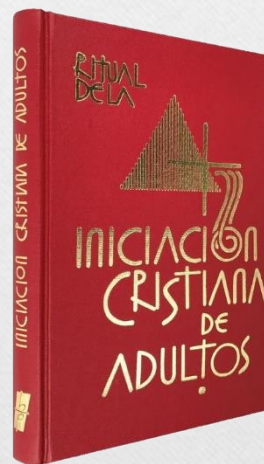
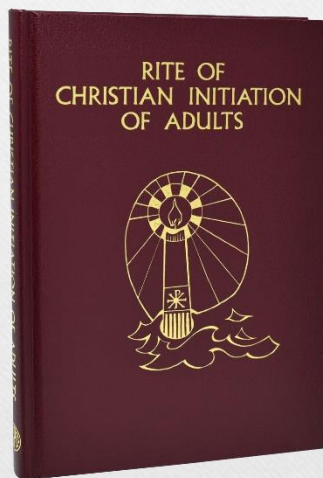




More information

Ritual Editions

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Ritual Edition

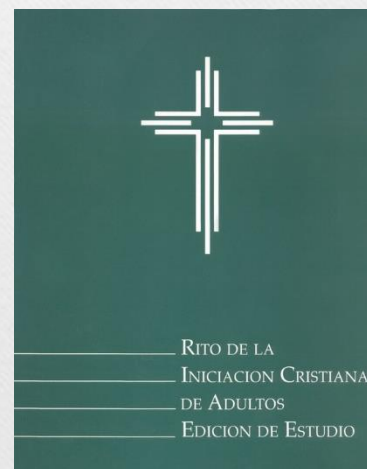
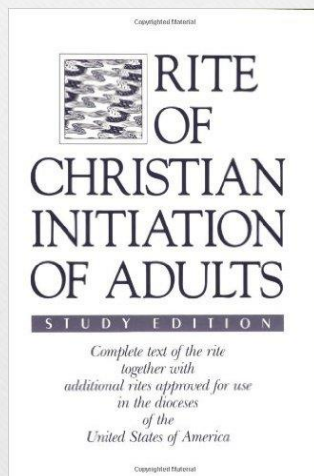




More information

Study Editions

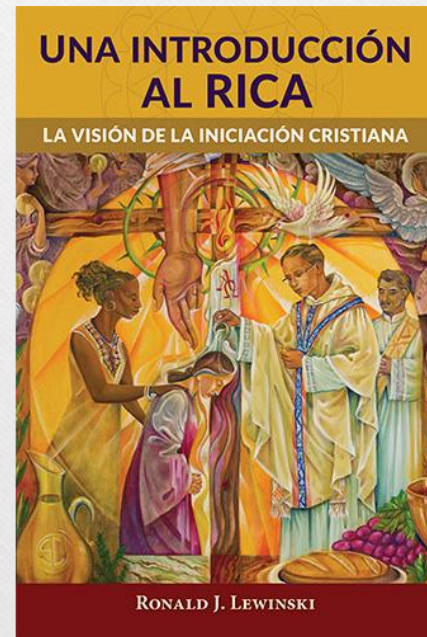
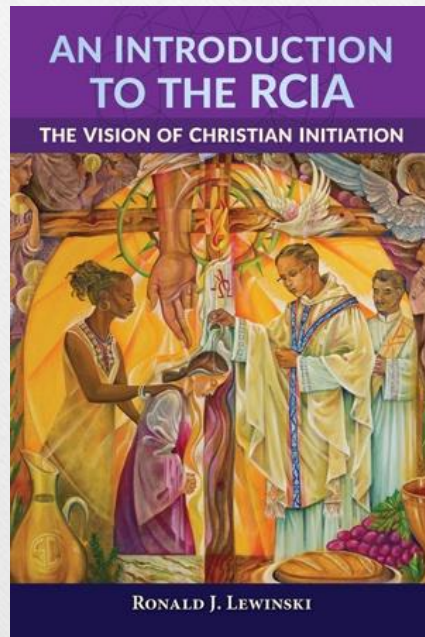
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Study Edition





More information

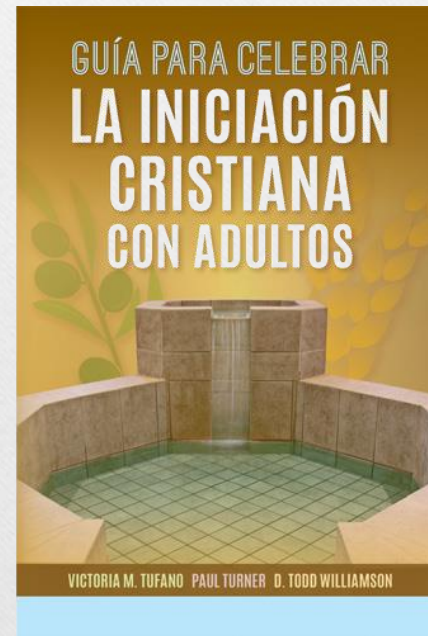
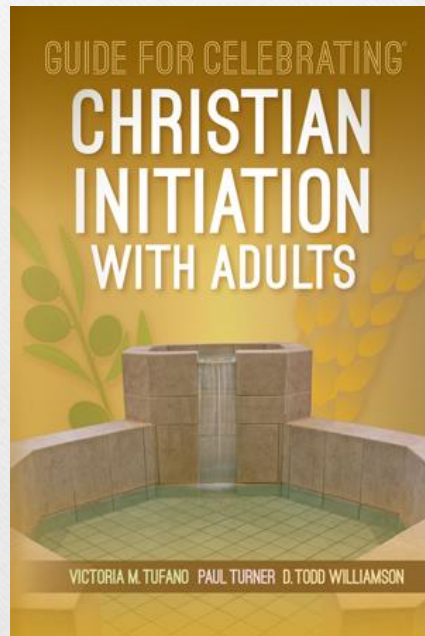
Resources from LTP





More information

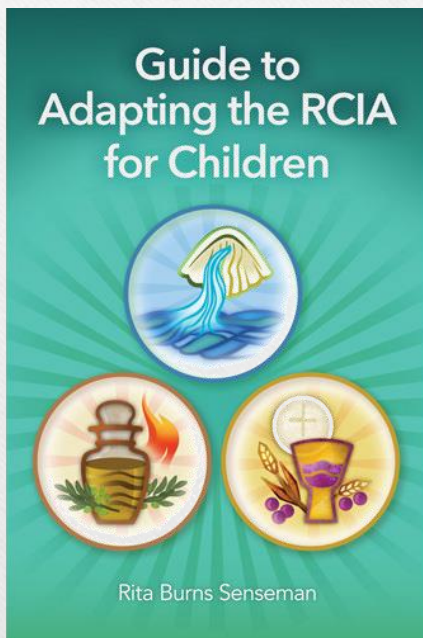
Resources from LTP





More information

Resources from LTP





More information

Websites / Publishers

- US Conference of Catholic Bishops - www.usccb.org
- The Association for Catechumenal Ministry - www.acmrcia.org
- Team RCIA - www.teamrcia.com
- Liturgical Training Publications – www.ltp.org



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