

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

- A. The rite of initiation for children of catechetical age contained within the RCIA, # 252-330, is the norm for catechizing and welcoming children who have never been baptized.
 - B. Catechetical formation, adapted to the children's growth in faith and extended over several years if need be (as with adults), will include preparation for the three sacraments of initiation. It is desirable that the final period of preparation coincide with Lent so that the sacraments can be received at the Easter Vigil (RCIA, # 256 and 304.)
 - C. The celebration of Christian initiation will ordinarily include Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the same ceremony.
 - D. The mystagogia (post-baptismal catechesis) should include on-going conversion and faith development as well as preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - E. High school students seeking full initiation will follow the adult model of initiation with adaptation for their age.
16. THE BAPTISM OF A PERSON WHO HAS REACHED THE AGE OF FOURTEEN SHOULD BY LAW BE REFERRED TO THE ORDINARY OR VICAR. THE CLERIC MAY, HOWEVER, BAPTIZE SUCH ADULTS, UNLESS THE BISHOP NOTIFIES THE PASTOR THAT HE WILL BAPTIZE ADULTS (c. 863).