OCIA: Liturgy, Catechesis, and Transformation | Annual OCIA Summer Intensive

Donna M. Eschenauer, PhD | June 20 & 21, 2025 | St. Anne Catholic Church

Presented by the Office of Worship, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Friday, June 20, 2025

8:15 am Registration and light breakfast 9:00 am Morning Prayer 9:20 am Welcome and Overview

9:30 am Part I: Introduction to the 2 -day intensive

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: Ever Ancient, Ever New!

Faith is a journey! Initiation ministers, along with the entire parish, can see Catholic faith in a deeper way with every period and ritual step of this restored ritual process.

- A deep understanding of the history of the initiation rites leads to a faithful commitment to good pastoral practice
- OCIA: Why a Revised Rite? What's the Same? What's Different?
- Reflection/Discuss/Practice: How can the revised ritual text revitalize the vision of Christian initiation? How can your initiation team recommit to full implementation of the OCIA?

10:45 am Break

11:00 am Part II: Liturgical Catechesis

- Historical Perspective
- Contributors to the Field
- Contemporary Vision
- Contemporary Practice
- Reflection/Discussion/Practice

12:15 pm Lunch Break

1:00 pm Part III: The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: Periods and Steps

- Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate
- First Step: Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate: catechesis begins here!
- Reflect/Discuss/Practice: Engaging the new catechumen in liturgical catechesis.

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm Part IV: Period of the Catechumenate and its Rites

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows (SC 10). It is therefore the privileged place for catechizing the People of God" (CCC 1074).

- The Catechumenate is a lengthy period during which catechumens receive pastoral instruction and practice appropriate disciplines...There are four ways by which this is achieved. (OCIA 75)
- Catechesis suited to the liturgical year and supported by Celebrations of the Word ... (75.1); Becoming familiar with the practice of Christian Life helped by the entire community (75.2); Assisted on their journey by Mother Church with liturgical rites (75.3); Catechumens too should learn to cooperate actively in evangelization ... (75.4).
- Celebrations of the Word should be held, suited to the liturgical time ... (OCIA 81)
- Minor exorcisms should put before the catechumens the true character of the spiritual life, (OCIA 90).
- Blessings, which are signs of the charity of God and the care of the Church, may be offered to the catechumens ... (OCIA 95).
- Celebrations of the Rite of Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens can be offered ... (OCIA 98).
- Reflect/Discuss/Practice: The significance of the Dismissal of the Catechumens and best practices for extended catechesis.

4:00 pm End of Day

Saturday, June 21, 2025

7:45 am Registration and light breakfast 8:30 am Morning Prayer 8:50 am Welcome and Q & A

9:00 am Part V: Period of Purification and Enlightenment:

Exploring a Different View of Liturgical Catechesis

- Scrutinies OCIA 141
- Rites of Handing on OCIA, 147ff
- Reflect/Discuss/Practice: Creating a sense of the sacred during this period.

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Part VI: Rites of Immediate Preparation and Third Step:

Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation

- Period of Mystagogy: Journey Toward Life-long Liturgical Catechesis
- Reflect/Discuss/Practice: The Sacred Triduum, Easter Vigil, and beyond

11:45 am Lunch Break

12:45 pm Part VII:

OCIA Part II: Rites for Particular Circumstances

- Order of Initiation for Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age
 - Engaging the children and their family in liturgical catechesis
- Preparing Adults for Confirmation and the Eucharist Who Were Baptized as Infants and Did Not Receive Catechesis
- Order of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church of Those Already Validly Baptized

2:00 pm Break

2:15 pm Part VIII:

New insights and ongoing growth and development for your parish's initiation process:

• Strategic Plan for implementing liturgical catechesis in the initiation process and beyond 3:15 PM Q+A and Closing Prayer

3:30 PM End of day