

The RCIA – Ever Ancient, Ever New

**Resource Materials for the  
Catechumenate:  
What Should Be on Your Shelf  
and How to Use Them**

» Eliot Kapitan  
» Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

**Comments for slide 1:**

- So much available – can't buy it all; not good stewardship
- Cacophony: "buy me", "this is greatest", "need only this...book, series, author, web..."
- Have to be a good shopper
- My bias:
  - Have what helps do what the Church wants
  - Consistent with vision of the rite
  - What is not on this list:
    - Either I do not know it
    - Or I do not recommend it

The RCIA – Ever Ancient, Ever New

STRUCTURE OF THE INITIATION OF ADULTS

**RCIA, no. 4.** The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful. By joining the catechumens in reflecting on the value of the paschal mystery and by renewing their own conversion, the faithful provide an example that will help the catechumens to obey the Holy Spirit more generously.

**Comments for slide 2:**

Context:

- Remind selves of what we know and believe
- Because vision and practice of the rite needs to shape our understanding and give us good criteria: this is suitable...this is not
- What does RCIA, no. 4 tell us about How to Shop?
  - Takes time
  - Not siloed...not just "for them"
  - Paschal Mystery – conversion to Christ – Death and Resurrection
  - Faithful give good example

The RCIA – Ever Ancient, Ever New

PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND  
PRECATECHUMENATE

**RCIA, no. 36.** ...[The precatechumenate] is a time of evangelization: faithfully and constantly the living God is proclaimed and Jesus Christ whom he has sent for the salvation of all...

**Comments for slide 3:**

Context continued:

- Not a "what" focus but a "who"
- The work of new evangelization helps us in this period
- RCIA, nos. 36 and 42: 12 key foci

## The RCIA – Ever Ancient, Ever New

### PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

**RCIA, no. 75.** The catechumenate is an extended period during which the candidates are given suitable pastoral formation and guidance, aimed at training them in the Christian life....

1. Suitable catechesis...gradual and complete...accommodated to the liturgical year, and solidly supported by celebrations of the word....

## Comments for slide 4:

Context continued:

- “Extended”: see NS 6...at least a year; not a baseball season year; not a grade school year...
- 75.1: but a liturgical year of at least 52 weeks wherein the “Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ” UNLYC, no. 17 and “Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ” CSL, no. 102
- 75.2
- 75.3
- 75.4

## The RCIA – Ever Ancient, Ever New

### PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

**RCIA, no. 138.** ...In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent the reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for its reception, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery....

## Comments for slide 5:

Context continued:

- Baptism and repentance focus
- Catechumenal catechesis & formation is complete; not time for “catch-up” catechesis
- Method shifts to preparing for, celebrating, and reflecting on the many rites

## The RCIA – Ever Ancient, Ever New

### PERIOD OF POSTBAPTISMAL CATECHESIS OR MYSTAGOGY

**RCIA, no. 244.** ...This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the eucharist, and doing the works of charity....

## Comments for slide 6:

Context continues:

- Ancient Mystagogy was...
- New Mystagogy is...
- Is NS, no. 24 a good thing; should it have another name and/or focus?

### Books on Shelf – Categories

---

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ritual text <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> <i>Rito de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos</i></li> <li>2. <i>Lectionary for Mass</i></li> <li>3. <i>Lectionary for Masses with Children</i></li> <li>4. <i>Roman Missal, Third Edition</i></li> <li>5. Bible(s)</li> <li>6. Song book / Hymnal</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Vatican Council II Documents</li> <li>8. Liturgical Documents</li> <li>9. Catechetical Documents</li> <li>10. Liturgical or Ritual Catechesis and Inculturation</li> <li>11. Other helpful texts</li> <li>12. Steps, Periods, and Pastoral Concerns</li> </ol>
---	--

### Comments for slide 7:

Context continues:

- 12 categories
- Note, start with primary documents first
- RCIA is a ritual book and an extended ritual and formational process

### Books on Shelf – Method

---

	Primary for Each Member	PRIMARY TEXTS AND RESOURCES	Primary for Team Use	
Secondary for Each Member				Secondary for Team Use
		11 Categories		
12. Steps, Periods, and Pastoral Concerns				
A.-E. Steps & Periods	F. Children	G. The Baptized	H. Discernment	I. & Other Gen. Theology

### Comments for slide 8:

Notes on the method:

- Column 3: the categories
- Columns 4 & 5: items for the team
- Columns 1 & 2: items for each team member;
  - 2: primary – copy in hands
  - 1: secondary – some of; not all of
- Following pages is the bibliography
- The “annotation” comes in the comments and presentation

### Books on Shelf

---

### The RCIA – Ever Ancient, Ever New

---