

The Precatechumenate and Catechumenate

As the name implies, the *Rite* of Christian Initiation of Adults is marked by the liturgical celebration of the journey towards full initiation through the Easter Sacraments. Most RCIA teams are well aware that the transition from the Precatechumenate to the Catechumenate is celebrated through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (RCIA §§ 41-74), and that the transition from Catechumen to one of the Elect is celebrated in the Rite of Election, preceded by the Rite of Sending (§§ 106-117). There are analogous celebrations for those baptized in other Christian communities who are journeying to full communion (§§ 411-458).

During the Catechumenate (see §§ 75-80 for introduction), a number of other rites are available for those not baptized that you may want to use. A number of these may be celebrated by the catechist rather than requiring an ordained minister; please see the texts in question for details.

- Celebrations of the Word of God (§§81-89)
- Minor Exorcisms (§§ 90-94)
- Blessing of Catechumens (§§ 95-97)
- Anointing of Catechumens (§§ 98-103).

In addition, the Presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer may be celebrated during this time if necessary (§§ 104-5).