Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Rite of Christian Initiation

Pre-Initiation Inventory for Children with Worksheet

Use this Form for
Unbaptized Children of Catechetical Age
prior to celebrating
Rite of Acceptance into
the Order of Catechumens

or

Children Baptized in Other Churches
prior to celebrating
Rite of Welcome

Name of Child ____________________________________

Name of Interviewer _______________________________

Date of Interview ________________________________
Pastoral Notes
Please use this form:
♦ When the child is of catechetical age (usually 7 years of age and older).
♦ When parents or custodians seek to have their unbaptized child welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church.
♦ When parents or custodians seek to have their child who was baptized in another church welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church.

Step One: Record the Basic Information

Child’s Name ____________________________________________
Child’s Address __________________________________________
Phone __________________ Child’s Date of Birth ______________
Child’s Place of Birth ______________________________________
Mother’s Name ___________________________________________
(including maiden name)
Mother’s Religion/Denomination ____________________________
Father’s Name ___________________________________________
Father’s Religion/Denomination _____________________________
The child resides with:
_____ both parents     _____ the Mother     _____ the Father
Other: ___________________________________________

Pastoral Notes
It is important to be sure of the following:
♦ Is the child adopted?  If yes, see note A on page 5 of this form.
♦ If the parents of the child are separated or divorced, the parent who brings the child for initiation into the Church must have legal custody of the child.
♦ If someone other than a parent brings the child to the Church (e.g., a foster parent, a grandparents, etc.) they must provide written permission signifying the consent of the parents.
♦ In the case of a child who is himself/herself requesting initiation into the Church, the right of the child is to be respected even if there is little or no parental support; in this case the role of suitable godparents is most critical.
Step Two: Determine the Status of the Child

IS THE CHILD BAPTIZED?

_____ Yes  If yes, go to the next page

_____ No  If no, continue below

This child will then be admitted as a Catechumen through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (RCIA ¶260-276)

When it is determined, write the date of the celebration of the Rite of Acceptance here:

_________________________________________

Immediately after the celebration of this rite, all information is to be entered into the parish Register of Catechumens.

Godparents(s)/ Sponsor(s) at the Rite of Acceptance:

The Godparents must be at least 16 years of age, already confirmed and faithfully living the Catholic Faith.

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________

Pastoral Notes

♦ The process of initiation “is to be extended over several years” before children receive the sacraments (RCIA ¶253). Their formation may also take place “with a group of children of the same age who are already baptized and are preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist: their initiation progresses gradually and within the supportive setting of this group of companions. . . The period of initiation will also provide a good opportunity for the family to have contact with priests and catechists.” (RCIA ¶254)

♦ In the year that this child is to be baptized, confirmed and admitted to Communion, the child celebrates the Rite of Election with the bishop and the rest of the Elect. During Lent of that year, the child experiences the Scrutinies. The child is then baptized, confirmed and receives Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Confirmation and Eucharist may never be separated from the celebration of Baptism. (National Statutes ¶19)

Name of godparent(s) at baptism (if different from above)

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

Pastoral Notes

♦ The child experiences the celebration of Mystagogia during the Easter season of his/her initiation.
♦ Be sure the sacramental information is recorded in the Baptism, Confirmation and Communion registers.

IF THE CHILD IS ALREADY BAPTIZED, consult B on page 5. Then list the following information:

Date of Baptism ________________________________

Denomination of the Church of Baptism _________________________

Name of Church __________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _____ Zip Code __________

Name of minister of Baptism _______________________________

Name of godparent(s) at the time of Baptism:

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

Was this child confirmed in another church? _____ yes _____ no

In case of prior Confirmation, consult C on page 5.

This child will then be admitted as a Candidate through the Rite of Welcome (RCIA ¶416-432)

When it is determined, write the date of the Rite of Welcome here _______________________

Name of Sponsor: __________________________

The Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age, already confirmed and faithfully living the Catholic Faith.

Pastoral Notes

♦ If it is determined that the child is catechized, and is coming into the Catholic Church with his/her family, after an appropriate catechesis the family may be received into the Church at any Sunday Eucharist. The Rite of Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church is celebrated, with Confirmation and First Communion. Religious formation continues with his/her peers.

♦ If it is determined that the child is uncatechized, the child then undergoes a period of formation. This includes participation in a religious formation program with his/her peers, which may include Sunday dismissal catechesis. In the year that this child is to be confirmed and admitted to Communion, the child celebrates the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion with the bishop and the rest of the Elect. He/She celebrates the appropriate Lenten Rites. At the Easter Vigil the child makes a profession of faith, is received into the Church, is confirmed and is admitted to the Eucharist.
Be sure that the sacramental information is recorded in: The Register of Reception into Full Communion, Confirmation Register, and Communion Register.

Notes

Since children who have reached the age of reason are considered, for purposes of Christian initiation, to be adults (canon 852.1), their formation should follow the general pattern of the ordinary catechumenate as far as possible. They should receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil together with the older catechumens.

A. Adopted Children
When adopting parents seek to have their adopted children baptized, there are two possibilities:

1. First case: The adoption is not finalized by the court. In this case, obtain permission from the Chancellor’s Office. Submit a copy of the birth certificate and statement of the adoption agency that they are aware of the Baptism along with a cover letter requesting Baptism. Once permission is granted, proceed with the Baptism. No certificate is issued until permitted by the Chancellor’s Office. This will occur when the court issues its Order of Adoption and a copy is submitted to the Chancellor’s Office. Please follow instructions of the Chancellor’s Office.

2. Second case: The final court order of adoption has been issued. Write and obtain permission from the Chancellor’s Office. Follow the instructions in the letter which will follow.

In all cases, it is important that the civil record match the church record.
For more information, call the Chancellor’s Office.

B. Prior Baptism
1. Obtain a baptismal certificate or sworn affidavit.

2. a. Orthodox (Greek, Russian, Coptic, Ukrainian, Armenian, etc.), are to be received into full communion in the corresponding Eastern rite. Please consult the Tribunal.
b. Episcopalian, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian: If the fact of Baptism is certain, the Baptism is presumed to be valid. Re-baptism, even conditional, is not permitted. When received into the Catholic Church, they are to be confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist. c. The validity of other Baptisms, apart from those listed above, is not accepted without question. For example, in the case of Baptist Baptism it must be shown that Baptism was administered in the name of the Trinity, and also that true Baptism took place, and not just “dedication.”

3. Those baptized in a non-Catholic ecclesial community are not to be baptized conditionally unless, after an examination of the matter and the form of words used in the conferral of baptism, and after a consideration of the intention of the parents of the child and of the minister of the baptism, a serious reason for doubting the validity of the baptism is present. When there is a reasonable and prudent doubt concerning the baptism of such Christians
which cannot be resolved after serious investigation into the fact and/or validity of baptism, namely,

- To ascertain whether the person was baptized with water and with the Trinitarian formula, and
- whether the minister and the recipient of the sacrament had the proper requisite intention

If conditional Baptism seems necessary, this *must be celebrated privately* rather than at a public liturgical assembly of the community. Reception into Full Communion and Confirmation should take place later at the Sunday Eucharist of the community or at the Easter Vigil. The minister of Reception into Full Communion and Confirmation should be the same as the minister of conditional Baptism.

C. **Prior Confirmation**

The validity of confirmation in other Christian churches is not recognized (unless the person has been confirmed in an Orthodox church – in this case consult the Tribunal). Upon reception into the Catholic Church, the child is to be confirmed prior to receiving Communion.