

Dear Padre,

I've been married to a Catholic for fifty years and would like to become Catholic. My parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults runs from September through Easter. That's a long time for someone in her eighties. Is there any way to accelerate the process?

RCIA was designed to meet the needs of two main groups: those who have been baptized as Catholics or in a Protestant tradition but have received no additional instruction in the Catholic faith, and those who have

not been baptized. Someone in the first group has a different starting point from someone who has little knowledge of Christ or who has never participated in a church community.

RCIA programs use an instruction process called catechumenate, in which people seeking to become Catholic (catechumens) experience a worshiping community, pray, and reflect on God's word. The catechumenate is divided into steps that are marked by liturgical rites;

some parts of the rites are optional, depending on each catechumen's pastoral situation. Catechumens can be received into the Church at any time of year.

Talk to your pastor about your closeness to Catholicism since your marriage and how it has formed your faith. Together, you can determine the amount and type of preparation that's right for you.

Fr. John Schmidt, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CHICAGO CATHOLIC

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Clearly, in Jesus' final—immense, wonderful—invitation, there is no proposal of poverty, but of wealth, of true richness...Being able to choose between an original and a copy, who would choose the copy? Here is the challenge: finding life's original, not the copy. Jesus does not offer surrogates, but true life, true love, true richness!

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 13, 2018



Calendar

Monday

OCTOBER 11

Weekday

Rom 1:1–7

Lk 11:29–32

Tuesday

OCTOBER 12

Weekday

Rom 1:16–25

Lk 11:37–41

Wednesday

OCTOBER 13

Weekday

Rom 2:1–11

Lk 11:42–46

Thursday

OCTOBER 14

Weekday

Rom 3:21–30

Lk 11:47–54

Friday

OCTOBER 15

*St. Teresa of Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor
of the Church*

Rom 4:1–8

Lk 12:1–7

Saturday

OCTOBER 16

Weekday

Rom 4:13, 16–18

Lk 12:8–12

Sunday

OCTOBER 17

*Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Is 53:10–11

Heb 4:14–16

Mk 10:35–45

or 10:42–45