

Full Initiation of Children of Catechetical Age

Preparing un-baptized children who have completed grade 2 for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist

The Sacramental Guidelines state that, in accordance with Canon Law, once a child has completed grade 2, they are to be prepared by their participation in the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* as adapted for children for the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist at the same celebration.

Our office encourages you to see the Rite itself (*Part II, Chapter 1*), and to contact the Liturgy Office for training opportunities for catechists in your parish.

As the Rite of Initiation is a process, rather than a program, it is difficult to map the faith journey of any one person. The Catechesis Office has a variety of materials that may be appropriate depending on such factors as:

- the needs and age of the child,
- the needs of the child's family, and
- the expertise of the catechists in your parish and their comfort with the process.

Parishes will want to take into account whether a child is attending or has attended a Catholic School. In the case of a child who has had several years' instruction in a Catholic School, that child may be presumed to have had the benefit of certain foundational catechesis; whereas a child who has had no formal religious instruction may need more basic catechesis to begin.

Although materials from the Catechetical Correspondence Courses may be helpful, children will need the personal encounter with a catechist that the Catechetical program does not provide. Therefore, enrolment in the Catechetical Correspondence Courses for this purpose is not encouraged.

Recommended Resources:

“Journey of Faith for Children” and *“Journey of Faith for Teens”*. A series of bulletin-type pamphlets each dealing on a separate topic. May be used in its entirety or parishes can pick and choose which topics are most needed. There is an at-home component to each pamphlet.

Both programs come with an easy to follow leader’s guide. This is by far the most flexible and affordable program that clearly follows the movement and intent of the Rite of Initiation. Many parishes may be familiar with the *“Journey of Faith”* used in adult RCIA.

Other materials may be useful. For further information on resources, please contact Anne Jamieson in the Catechesis Office 905-528-7988, ext. 2251.

For further information on training or courses which explore the RCIA process for children, contact Msgr. Murray Kroetsch, Liturgy Office 905-528-7988, ext. 2232.