
October 28, 2021

What Do You Desire? DISCERNMENT

Week 30 of Ordinary Time, Cycle B



"They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble."

-cf. Jeremiah 31:7-9

the first MAJOR Rite of the RCIA

There are three major Rites of the RCIA. The first of these will be celebrated at St. Monica on Sunday, **November 14** at the 10 am, 12:30 y 3:00 pm Masses. In this first Rite the inquirers **STATE PUBLICLY** their desire to follow Jesus as a member of the Catholic Church. Participation in this Rite is the beginning of a period of the RCIA called the "Catechumenate," a time in which the new "catechumens" must "learn to make the mind of Christ their own" and "to put on Christ" by their participation in the life of the Church. At the center of this Rite - and at the center of their lives - is the cross, and also the promise of eternal joy that comes with embracing the cross.



about DISCERNMENT for the Rite

What is "readiness"?

This week in RCIA each Sponsor will have 45 minutes, or a little more, with his/her candidate to help them discern for this first major rite.

What does it mean "to be ready" for this Rite?

Paragraph #42 clearly defines what it means to be "ready". There will be a booklet at the Session to help the candidate understand and apply this paragraph to their own experience.

"The prerequisite for making this first step is that the beginnings of the spiritual life and the fundamentals of Christian teaching have taken root in the candidates. Thus there must be evidence of the first faith that was conceived during the period of evangelization and pre-catechumenate and of an initial conversion and intention to change their lives and to enter into a relationship with God in Christ.

Consequently, there must also be evidence of the first stirrings of repentance, a start to the practice of calling upon God in prayer, a sense of the Church, and some experience of the company and spirit of Christians through contact with a priest or with members of the community. The candidates should also be instructed about the celebration of the liturgical rite of acceptance." #42 RCIA

Homework

Continue to pray daily.

There will be no RCIA Session on Thursday, November 4 - but there will be a Team Meeting (for Sponsors only) on this day.

All Inquirers in the RCIA should attend Mass on November 1, the Feast of All Saints, a holy day of obligation for Catholics.

Inquirers may also wish to attend Mass on November 2, the Feast of All Souls: the Feast of All Souls is the day in which the Church prays for all our deceased loved ones - a great way to observe this feast at home is to have photos of your deceased family members and a candle in your place of prayer - and then pray for them.

Finally, as homework, begin to learn about different saints. Pick a favorite and be ready to tell about this saint at the RCIA session on November 11.



More about the Rite

Though this first major rite is similar for those who are baptized and those who are not, we do make the distinction: a Trinitarian baptism in any Christian Church is recognized as "valid" - those who are *baptized* are already members of Christ, of the Church, and are our brothers and sisters in Christ, even if they are not Catholic. Though they are signed with a cross during this Rite, as an indication of their desire to be conformed more closely to Christ, they have already died and risen with him in baptism and have the indelible mark of baptism. For these *already baptized*, but not "catechized", the first major Rite is the "Rite of Welcoming the Candidates." From this Rite onwards they will be called "*candidates*" for full initiation.

For the *unbaptized* this first major Rite is called "Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens." From this time forward it is like "dating with a purpose" - they are to enter a time of apprenticeship in faith, growing into disciples by walking with the baptized and learning from them the way of prayer and discipleship. After this Rite they are known as "*catechumens*."

In both rites - the Rite of Welcome *and* the Rite of Acceptance - the Inquirers announce their intention to follow Jesus in the Catholic Church AND the Catholic Church (all of us) promises its love, support and prayers for the new Candidates and Catechumens. The candidates and catechumens now enjoy some of the privileges of being a member of the Church.