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October 28, 2021

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## What Do You Desire? DISCERNMENT

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Week 30 of Ordinary Time, Cycle B

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"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

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## the first MAJOR Rite of the RCIA

Sunday, **November 14** the first major Rite of the RCIA will be celebrated at St. Monica. **ONLY youth in grades 9-12** - or those in Catholic School - **will celebrate this Rite in November**, BUT the rest of the youth will be able to celebrate this same Rite in the coming **February**, if they are ready then.

Either way - whether preparing to discern for the Rite now or in February - this RCIA is an opportunity to **discern honestly** the changes in habits or desires since starting in RCIA.

Families will have a booklet to help them understand what they have experienced so far in RCIA.



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# about DISCERNMENT for the Rite

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## What is "readiness"?

This week families will have some time to discern for the first Rite or just discern how they are doing in RCIA, depending on the age of the youth.

What does *readiness* for the first Rite "look like"?

Paragraph #42 defines "readiness" clearly - and this paragraph can help with both discernments - discernment for the Rite -or- discernment of how habits/desires may have changed since starting RCIA.

*"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 Shepherds 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. And don't forget to watch the movie "Prince of Egypt," too!"



## More about the Rite

Though this first major rite is similar for those who are baptized and those who are not, we do make a 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 in this first 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.