

PREPARING FOR THE RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

Aim

To prepare those who are not baptised for the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (the first step of the journey of RCIA).

Preparation

for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the session and for the child.

Resources

Leaders

- Break Open the Word
- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle – set up a prayer space

Child

- Activity Book (page 7-8)

Background for Catechist

This session will look at the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens.

The Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumens is the liturgical rite marking the beginning of the catechumenate. The child expresses their intention to respond to God's call and the Church accepts. Therefore, it is important to celebrate this rite with the community.

However it is not necessary to hold this rite in front of the whole congregation if the child is only comfortable celebrating with family, close friends and sponsor/ catechist.

“ RCIA 250

It is important that this rite be celebrated with an actively participating but small congregation, since the presence of a large group might make the child uncomfortable.

Readings that can be used during the rite outside of Sunday Mass are as follows:

- First Reading: [Genesis 12:1-4a](#)
- Psalm: [Psalm 33:4-5](#)
- Gospel Acclamation: We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
- Gospel: [John 1: 35-42](#)

If the child is comfortable being presented during a Sunday Mass, the second option is to hold the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens during the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

To commemorate the Rite of Acceptance, the child may be presented with a Catholic Youth Bible and a Mass book.

For those already baptised in another Christian tradition

The candidates who have already been baptised in another Christian tradition are invited to come forward during a Mass and receive a blessing. They do not participate in the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens.

The moment the child is received into the catechumenate, he/she becomes part of the Catholic community.



Follow up from last session

Check to see if there are any questions or reflections from the previous session or from the Activity Book.

Practical things

Rehearse the questions that are being asked during the ritual and advise all the practical information such as the date and time this will all take place.



Exploring

This rite marks an important step in the journey for the child. It is a step from being an Inquirer to becoming a Catechumen, that is a person who is preparing to become Christian. This also means being accepted in to the parish community.

Why do you want to become a follower of Christ - a Christian?

Why do you think it would be good to become a Christian?

Why do you think it would be good to believe in Jesus?

Rite

RCIA 257

The priest will invite the candidates, parents and sponsors to come forward.

The priest will ask the following questions:

What do you want to become?



A Christian.

Why do you want to become a Christian?



Because I believe in Christ.

What do you gain by believing in Christ?



Eternal Life

Affirmation by the parents (or Sponsor if given the authority by the parent)
Signing of the candidates with the cross.

Activity Book

Ask the child to write down their answer to the following questions in their Activity Book (page 7-8).

What do you want to become?

Why do you want to become a Christian?

What do you gain by believing in Christ?

Have the child bring these answers to the rite and use them when asked the questions.



Living it out in the everyday

Activity Book

In the Activity Book (page 7-8), we see the following words:

“ RCIA 254

Try to live as children of God, for our Lord taught us: ‘Love God with all your heart and love one another as I have loved you’.

How do we do this?

Write this in your Activity Book (page 7) inside the cross.

“ RCIA 257

Christ has called you to be his friends. Always remember him and be faithful to him

How do we do this?

Write this in your Activity Book (page 8) inside the cross.



Scripture and Prayer

Scripture

Light a candle before reading the scripture below. (This reading will be read at the rite, if not using the Sunday readings.)

Ask the child to sit quietly and listen to the words.



John 1:35-42

The First Disciples of Jesus

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture, invite the child to say a word or two from the passage that is speaking to them.

What struck you about this scripture?

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

Prayer



Loving God,

Help me to know you more each day as I decide to follow you.

Open my heart and mind to your call.

We ask this prayer through your Son Jesus.

Amen.