



# Resources for Implementing the RCIA

## Pathways in Faith

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# Prayer

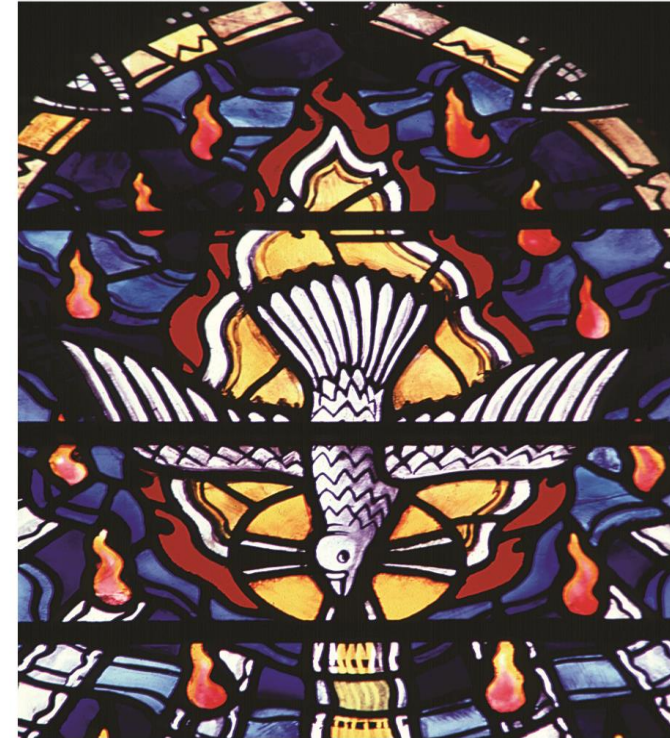
*Loving God,*

you called us each by name and gave your only Son to redeem us. In your faithfulness, you sent the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us.

Open our hearts to Jesus. Give us the courage to speak his name to those who are close to us and the generosity to share his love with those who are far away.

We pray that every person throughout the world be invited to know and love Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. May they come to know his all-surpassing love. May that love transform every element of our society.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.





## Ideal Processes for Conversion

- **Hearing the Word of God and reflecting**
- **Exploring the Word of God**
- **Elaborating the Word of God through doctrine**
- **Sharing the Word of God with others**
- **Increasing identity with parish and Catholic community**
- **Ongoing exploration**
- **Prayer**





# Essential Elements of the Catechumenate

- **Paschal:** “everything is oriented toward the mystery of Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection”
- **Initiatory:** “an initiation into faith that leads catechumens to the discovery of the mystery of Christ and of the Church.”
- **Liturgical, ritual & symbolic:** “interwoven with symbols, rites, and celebrations that touch the senses and the affections.”
- **Community:** “a process that takes place in a concrete community . . .”
- **Ongoing conversion & witness:** “conversion is never fully accomplished but lasts a whole lifetime . . .”
- **Progressive:** “a dynamic process structured in periods that succeed one another in a gradual and progressive way. This evolving character responds to the actual life story of the person . . .”

*Directory for Catechesis 64 (also see 62)*





# Discipleship

- **Encounter**
- **Integrating Faith and Life**
- **Accompanying and Being Accompanied**
- **Serving Others**
- **Living Catholic Values**

# Developing a Process for RCIA—Balance



*Knowledge of  
Creed and doctrine*

*Appropriation of  
God's Word in  
community*



# Creed

- Elaboration of the Kerygma
- Kerygma is the content of faith from the perspective of salvation and joy
- Central articles of the Creed articulate basic truths of human experience and God's relationship with us
- Kerygma expands into behavior because our lives reflect the truth we have discovered
- Creed shows identity with Christ and identity with Community



Purpose of RCIA

# Conversion

*Personal Dimension*

*Communal Dimension  
(parish community)*







# Community

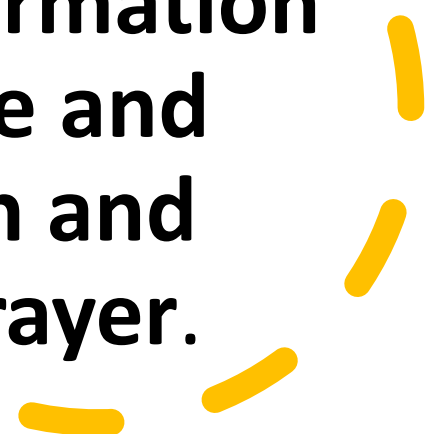
- Faith only comes through some form of community
- Community is the joint witness we make of our faith
- Community means that faith comes through the dynamics of connecting with and sharing with others
- Community becomes an instrument (sacrament) through which faith is communicated
- Community involves listening and sharing, hearing others articulate faith and finding one's own articulation in relationship with others





# PATHWAYS IN FAITH

**A set of resources to be used as part of RCIA formation reinforcing the connection between doctrine and sharing by employing a process of reflection and conversation that leads to experiences of prayer.**





# Pathways in Faith and the RCIA

## DANGER

The RCIA process will overemphasize the “content” of faith as an exchange of information with the goal of receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.

## OPPORTUNITY

**Pathways in Faith** offers essential doctrinal points in a format of reflection and sharing which leads to the development of lifelong discipleship behaviors.

How Adults Learn

Experience→


Meaning-Making

- **Adults need to know why: Why is it important to learn this? How is it personally relevant?**
- **Adults will learn if they want to learn and if they think it will help them better their lives.**
- **Adults bring their life experiences with them. These experiences are the lens through which they learn. “We all wear glasses.”**
- **Adults are independent, critical thinkers. They need time and space to analyze, digest, examine, and re-examine.**
- **Adults often learn best when they “do.”**







## Using the Sessions

- **Most directors will not use all the sessions.**
  - **Directors are urged to mix these sessions with other dynamics to help people approach and absorb the material, i.e., more formal teaching, video and film, visits to a church building.**
  - **The sessions are divided into twelve modules that proceed from an initial presentation of Kerygma to a filling of that Kerygma with considerations of teaching, moral life, and spirituality.**
  - **Each module offers, along with the PDF for the sessions, a short video orientation; and also a live Webinar will be offered monthly to connect participants with the wider faith community.**
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# Principles of Evangelization

USCCB  
Pattern:  
“Living as  
Missionary  
Disciples”

- The modules are gathered into basic faith-dynamics that follow widely adopted approaches to evangelization.
  - After the initial welcome and inquiry modules, the patterns shift to “**encounter**” in which aspects of God, Jesus, and the Spirit are presented.
  - Then follows a set of modules that emphasize the “**accompany**” parts of Catholic life, particularly in the Sacraments and moral life, all grounded in **community**.
  - These conclude with a final module on being “**sent**,” with an emphasis on continued discipleship, mystagogy, and sharing Good News with others.
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# Pathway Sessions Process



## 1) **Welcome**

-- Participants “check in” and reflect quietly on an introductory question

## 2) **Presentation** of the theme

--Participants listen to the theme as expressed in Scripture and in the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*; general discussion question follows

## 3) **Sharing**

--Participants explore the theme through various discussion questions that help them open up the theme and apply it to their lives

# Pathways Sessions Process (cont'd)



## 4) **Question time**

--Participants have the opportunity to ask questions about the theme, teaching, or other issues that emerged in the discussion

## 5) **Catholic Factoid**

--Leaders briefly offer an informational piece on some aspect of Catholic life


## 6) **Prayer**

--Participants are invited into some kind of formal, explicit prayer


## 7) **Announcements**

## 8) **Hospitality**





## Attitudes to Cultivate

- **Flexible** use of the material depending on the composition of the group; some areas might be engaged more fully than others
  - Trusting in **conversation** so that people share their perspectives and build upon each other's insights
  - **Giving time** during the session for participants to absorb the conversation and teaching
  - Emphasis on **prayer** as an experience that can be replicated in other places outside the group
  - Comfort with the use of **Scripture**
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## Pathways

- Because **Pathways in Faith** makes no claim to being doctrinally exhaustive or being an alternative to other sources of doctrine, it was determined that it did not need an “Imprimatur”.
- **Pathways in Faith** is being made available primarily through the Internet in the form of videos, downloadable sessions, and Webinars.
- **Pathways in Faith** will have a subscription format with parishes paying either monthly or annually.





## Adult Faith Formation

- The sessions developed in Pathways in Faith are suitable for adult faith formation groups as well.
- Directors can offer certain modules as a way to deepen understanding about certain aspects of Catholic faith and life or, in many cases, as a way to introduce themes to Catholics who have not been sufficiently catechized.
- Some groups that might benefit from these sessions include Young Adults, parents of school-age children, and people preparing for Confirmation later on in life.





# Hopes

- Preparing sessions for the RCIA will be less burdensome for busy catechetical directors.
- Different modules can be led by different parishioners throughout the year.
- Some modules may be repeated several times to help the parish approach an ideal of year-round catechumenal ministry.
- The approach of Pathways in Faith can provide a model for ongoing faith development after receiving the Sacraments of Initiation, such as the period of mystagogy.





# PEM Support

PEM staff are available to provide support and training for catechetical leaders and catechists using Pathways in Faith as a resource for implementing the RCIA.

# How to Subscribe to Pathways in Faith



COMING IN FEBRUARY 2022

Introducing new online, subscription-based tools to make the catechumenate more responsive to personal sharing and conversion and to help adults explore dimensions of their faith.



[www.pathwaysinfaith.org](http://www.pathwaysinfaith.org)

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