
Preparation of Candidates for the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church

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- “[N]o greater burden than necessary (see Acts 15:28) is required for the establishment of communion unity.” (RCIA 473)

Acts 15:28 refers to the so-called Council of Jerusalem, in which the apostles and others determined that Gentile converts to Christianity did not have to be circumcised. “It is the decision of the holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, ...”
- “The baptized Christian is to receive both **doctrinal** and **spiritual** preparation, **adapted to individual** pastoral requirements.... (RCIA 477 [Rite of Reception 5], emphasis added).
- “Their doctrinal and spiritual preparation for reception into full Catholic communion should be determined **according to the individual case**, that is, it should depend on the extent to which the baptized person has led a Christian life within a community of faith and been appropriately catechized to deepen his or her inner adherence to the Church.”

(U.S. National Statutes 30, emphasis added).
- “Those baptized persons who have lived as Christians and need only instruction in the Catholic tradition and a degree of probation within the Catholic community **should not be asked to undergo a full program parallel to the catechumenate**” (NS 31, emphasis added).
- “Anything that would equate the candidates for reception with those who are catechumens is to be **absolutely** avoided” (RCIA 477, emphasis added).
- Baptized Christians may share in Catholic worship in conformity with the provisions of the Ecumenical Directory (RCIA 477). The RCIA never mentions dismissing baptized candidates for full communion from the Eucharist.
- RCIA 478 suggests that candidates for full communion may benefit from liturgical rites that mark their progress in formation. It refers to the adapted rites in Part II, section 4 of the 1988 US edition, that were closely based on the catechumenate rituals. This did not appear in the *editio typica*. In the *editio typica*, the only rite for baptized Christians who become Catholic is the Rite of Reception.
- The candidate should celebrate the sacrament of penance some time *before* the rite of reception, if the rite of reception is to take place within Mass. “[T]he candidate, according to his or her own conscience, should make a confession of sins beforehand, first informing the confessor that he or she is about to be received into full communion” (RCIA 482, R9).
- An abjuration of heresy, long a part of reception, is no longer required (RCIA 479, R6).