

# ***Breaking Up is Hard to Do: New Approaches to Forming Candidates***



**Jeremy Helmes**  
***Initiate Webinar Series***  
**May 20, 2021**





# Agenda



- Opening prayer
- Setting the Stage
- Candidates
  - Formation & Ritual Considerations
  - Parish Experience Panel
- Breakout Conversations
- Large Group Sharing/Q&A
- News on the *OCIA*
- Wrap-Up
- Closing Prayer



# Who's Who?



- Unbaptized *catechumens*
- Baptized non-Catholic *candidates for reception into full communion* – uncatechized
- Baptized non-Catholic *candidates for reception into full communion* – catechized
- Baptized Catholics who need to be Confirmed and/or receive First Communion
  - \* (*Even if they have been "away"*)



## Formation of Baptized Candidates



"No greater burden than necessary is required for the establishment of communion unity." (*RCIA* 473, cf. Acts 15:28)

"The baptized Christian is to receive both doctrinal and spiritual preparation, adapted to individual pastoral requirements..." (*RCIA* 477, Rite of Reception 5)

"Their doctrinal and spiritual preparation for reception into full Catholic communion should be determined according to the individual case, that is, 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)



# Formation of Baptized Candidates



"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." (*National Statutes* 31)

"Anything that would equate the candidates for reception with those who are catechumens is to be absolutely avoided." (*RCIA* 477)



# Ritual Concerns

## Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church

- Intended during Sunday Mass

“The reception of candidates into the full communion of the Catholic Church should ordinarily take place at the Sunday Eucharist of the parish community, in such a way that it is understood that they are indeed Christian believers who have already shared in the sacramental life of the Church and are now welcomed into the Catholic Eucharistic community upon their profession of faith and confirmation...” (U.S. National Statutes 32)

- No special day, season, or feast indicated; no reference to Easter Vigil

“It is preferable that reception into full communion not take place at the Easter Vigil lest there be any confusion of such baptized Christians with the candidates for baptism [catechumens], possible misunderstanding of or even reflection upon the sacrament of baptism in another Church or ecclesial community.” (U.S. National Statutes 33)

- “Any appearance of triumphalism must be clearly avoided.” (RCIA 475.2, U.S. National Statutes )



# Easter Vigil?

## **Why Not Just Receive All Baptized Candidates at the Easter Vigil?**

- Ecumenical
- Ecclesiological
- Liturgical
- Timing



## But Wait...

RCIA, Part II, chapter 4 calls for uncatechized adults to complete their initiation at the Easter Vigil.

This is for those baptized as infants with little no catechesis or practice of faith since.

Only permitted if there are Elect to be baptized too...

Parallel rites

- Welcome : Acceptance
- Election : Call to Continuing Conversion
- Penitential Rite : Scrutinies

Dismissal?



# Parish Experience Panel

**Ms. Birgitt Hacker**  
**St. Margaret of York Parish**

**Mr. Dave Brunsman**  
**St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish**

As you think about how your parish forms candidates relative to how you form catechumens, what has been your practice?

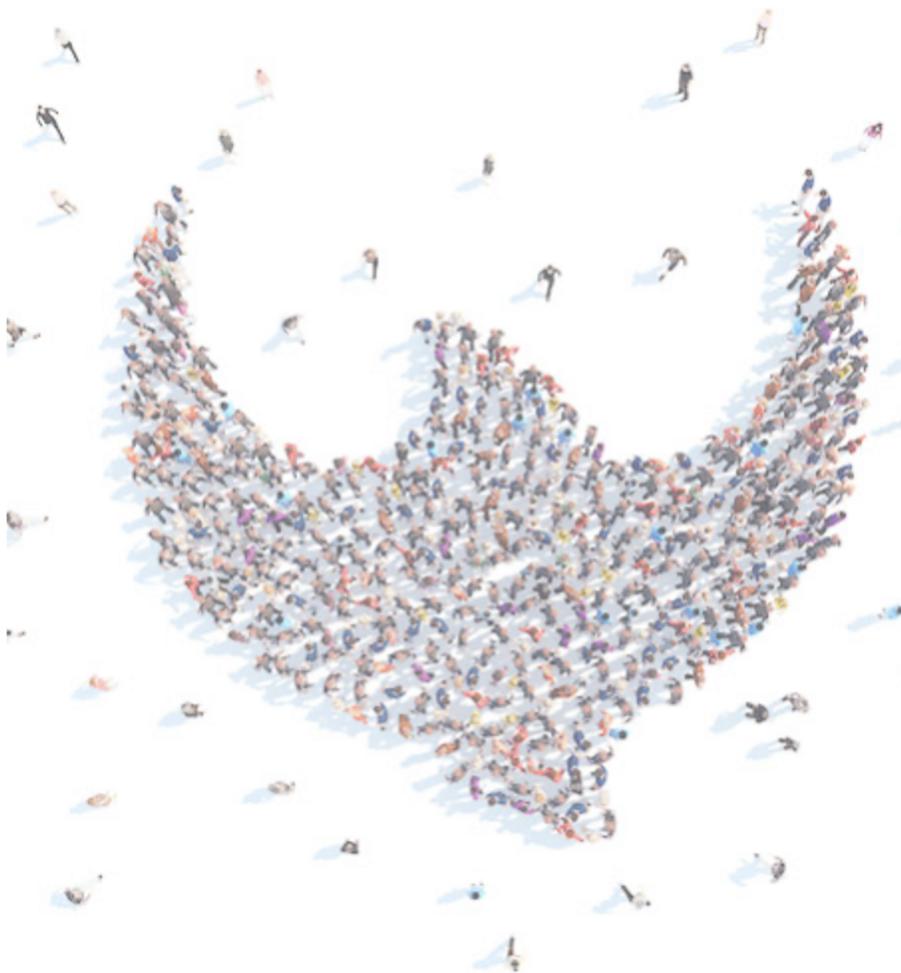
As you think about the best practices offered by the Church's official documents and theology, what do you hope to do differently?

What keeps you from doing that?





# Your experience



## Breakout discussion:

What are the first steps I could take in my parish to better distinguish between candidates and catechumens in their formation for and liturgical rites of initiation?

Where would I like our parish to be 5 years from now?

What keeps me from that?



# OCIA

## New translation: *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

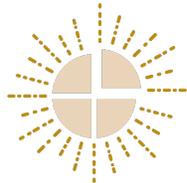
- Approved ICEL translation in Nov 2019 of *editio typica*
- Final vote possible for Nov 2021, then sent to Rome, process continues...“1-2 years”?
- Spanish version for the U.S. will be ready at the same time.
- Combined rites (U.S. only) will continue to be in the U.S. book.
- The National Statutes on the Catechumenate also being revised, but through Canonical Affairs...  
It will likely be in two parts: actual statutes for the U.S., then a compilation of other relevant norms (e.g. canon law, rubrics from other documents, etc.)  
  
Inquiry include an examination of a potential catechumen’s impediments to initiation (e.g. irregular marriage, invalid baptism, etc.).



# Announcements



Survey & Input for Future



TOGETHER

[www.catholicaoc.org/together](http://www.catholicaoc.org/together)



[www.catholicaoc.org/beacons](http://www.catholicaoc.org/beacons)