



CHRISTIAN INITIATION

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Wed., Dec. 4, 2024

Purification & Enlightenment



Agenda

1:30p

Welcome, Prayer, Intros

1:35p

Purification & Enlightenment

2:25p

Announcements

2:30p

End



Opening Prayer

Almighty, most beloved Father,
whose will it is to renew all things in Christ
and who draw all people to him,
graciously guide these elect of the Church
and grant that, faithful to the calling they have received,
they may be built up into the kingdom of your Son
and be sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

– Prayer Over the Elect, Option B (OCIA 135)



QUESTIONS for DISCUSSION

How is the period of Purification & Enlightenment currently celebrated in your parish/Family of Parishes?

How do you make it different than the Catechumenate period?

What keeps you from making it a distinct and special period?



Purification & Enlightenment: What the OCIA Text says

138 The Period of Purification and Enlightenment of the elect normally coincides with Lent and begins with "Election." Both in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis, through remembrance of Baptism or preparation for it, and by penitence, Lent renews the community of the faithful together with the elect and disposes them to recall the Paschal Mystery, which the Sacraments of Initiation apply to individuals. In this period, the elect together with the local community give themselves to spiritual recollection, so that they may prepare themselves for the Paschal Feasts and for Initiation by the Sacraments. To this end, the Scrutinies, the Rites of Handing On, and the Rites of Immediate Preparation are provided for them.

139 The time of purification and enlightenment is given to a more intense preparation of spirit and heart, which has the character of recollection rather than of catechesis, and is intended to purify hearts and minds by examination of conscience and penitence. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior. The Scrutinies (cf. Nos. 141-146) and Rites of Handing On (cf. Nos. 147-149) take place during the Lent that precedes the Sacraments of Initiation. The spiritual and catechetical preparation of the elect, or the "co-petitioners," is completed by these rites and extends throughout the entire Time of Lent.

140 Holy Saturday is the day of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and on that day the Rites of Immediate Preparation (cf. nos. 185-192) may be used.

Purification & Enlightenment: What the OCIA Text says

- **Major themes:**
 - Renewal
 - Remembrance/Recollection (4x)
 - Preparation (5x)
 - Togetherness (2x)
 - Penitence (2x)
 - Enlightenment
- **Other themes** (from the section on the Scrutinies [141-146] and the Rites of Handing On [147-149]):
 - Healing
 - Strengthening
 - Liberation
 - Purification
- **The primary, orienting statement:**
 - **139** The time of purification and enlightenment is given to a more intense preparation of spirit and heart, which has *the character of recollection rather than of catechesis*, and is intended to purify hearts and minds by examination of conscience and penitence.



Purification & Enlightenment: What the OCIA Text says

- **The role of catechesis**

- The preparation of spirit and heart has the character of recollection – but this doesn't mean that catechesis is absent
- Lent renews the community and disposes them to recall the Paschal Mystery, in part, through *liturgical catechesis* (138)
- No. 139 mentions the "*catechetical preparation*" of the elect

- **How do we provide catechesis without giving this time of preparation an overtly catechetical feel?**

- For one, no. 139 says that catechetical preparation is achieved *by the rites of this period*
 - Namely, the Scrutinies and the Rites of Handing On
- Also, when liturgical catechesis takes place within a retreat-like setting, then the experience is one of reflection, prayerfulness, and spiritual growth even though catechesis is being provided
 - *Liturgical catechesis*, by the way, is a catechesis on the rites themselves, when you walk through the components of the rite and break open their meaning
- Of course, it also helps to *get out of the classroom*, or at least to transform that space into something unique and different
- Catechesis *cannot be the only thing* during P&E – it must be wrapped in other ministry components and experiences that reinforce the themes from the OCIA text



Purification & Enlightenment: Practical Suggestions

- **Potential retreat agendas**
 - **1.5-hour retreat** (evening, meet in the sanctuary)
 - 7:00 – 7:20 Lectio
 - 7:20 – 7:40 Short talk on penitence
 - 7:40 – 8:00 Reflection questions
 - 8:00 – 8:20 Prayer teams
 - 8:20 – 8:30 Final announcements and closing prayer
 - **3-hour retreat** (morning, meet in the sanctuary)
 - 9:00 – 9:20 Lectio
 - 9:20 – 9:40 Short talk on remembrance
 - 9:40 – 10:00 Reflection questions
 - 10:00 – 10:20 Emmaus walk
 - 10:20 – 10:35 Large group discussion
 - 10:35 – 10:50 Break
 - 10:50 – 11:10 Short talk on liberation
 - 11:10 – 11:30 Reflection questions
 - 11:30 – 11:50 Prayer teams
 - 11:50 – 12:00 Final announcements and closing prayer



Purification & Enlightenment: Practical Suggestions

- **Potential retreat agendas**
 - **1-day or 2-day retreat**
 - Much the same as with the shorter retreats, but also:
 - More rest and recreation
 - Sacramental encounters (Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession)
 - Spiritual direction
 - Time to encounter God in nature
 - Good food!
- **How often?**
 - A session in week 1 could solely be about unpacking their experience of the Rite of Election
 - You could have one 2-day retreat during the first two weeks of Lent, then a 1.5-hr or 3-hr retreat in weeks 3, 4, and 5 that are themed around the Scrutiny readings
 - You could have one 2-day retreat in the middle of Lent (week 3) and let the typical activities of Lent (Stations of the Cross, Scrutinies, Rites of Handing On, Parish Mission, Breaking Open the Word, discernment interviews, Confession [for Candidates], etc.) form them the rest of the time
 - If the sponsor is still checking in and praying with his elect on a regular basis, then all of that is enough

Purification & Enlightenment: Final Notes

- **Preparatory rites are powerful**
 - **Poll:** How many of you celebrate the Preparatory Rites on Holy Saturday morning?
 - While these aren't technically a part of the P&E period, they are a powerful final piece of preparation before the sacraments of the Easter Vigil are celebrated
 - See **OCIA 185-205**
- **Assign a team or a coordinator specifically for P&E**
 - There is someone in your Family of Parishes who is uniquely skilled at this and would love to do it
 - With the union of parishes into a Family, this should be more of a possibility
 - This would free up the OCIA Coordinator to focus on the administrative details of Lent and Easter
- **Available resources:**
 - *A Guide to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment*, by Ronald A. Oakham
 - *A Journal for the Elect and Neophytes*, by Catherine Ecker
 - *Water, Light, and Life: A Lenten Parish Mission*, by Paul Radkowski
 - *Breaking Open the Word: An RCIA Guide to Sunday Scripture, Year A, B, and C*, by Mary Katharine Deely
 - *Food for the Soul: Reflections on the Mass Readings, Cycle A, B, and C*, by Peter Kreeft
 - *The Word of the Lord: Reflections on the Sunday Mass Readings, Year A, B, and C*, by John Bergsma





QUESTIONS

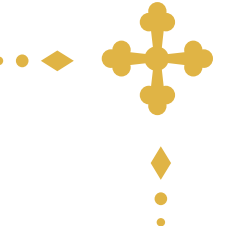
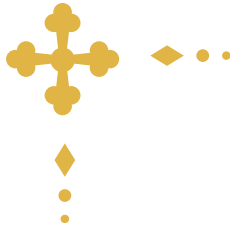
What questions of clarification about the period of Purification and Enlightenment do you have?



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Formation Opportunities

- **March 25** (Cincinnati)/**March 26** (Dayton): One-day workshop for all initiation ministers w/ Fr. Paul Turner
- Updated documentation on everything on AoC websites (one-page coaching sheet, FAQs, etc.)
- Webinar series Fall-Winter 2024-25 (**1:30-2:30 p.m.**):
 - **Jan 15:** National Statutes...a Deep Dive!
 - **Feb 27:** Marriage Issues & the Catechumenate
- Location-based training for each Family team offered on demand
- Boot Camp for new initiation ministers in May, annually



March 9, 2025 First Sunday of Lent

*2p (English) & 7p (Spanish) in both cities

Registration opens Jan 15

Register as a Family

Names booklet

