

## Part Two of the Series

### RCIA: Rite of Christian

The RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a gradual journey of many steps and stages. In Last week's bulletin, the first phase or "inquiry Period" was explained. This week we look at the next phase, the Catechumenate. This second stage of the initiation process is the extended period of time when those to be initiated receive more formal preparation and training in the Catholic Christian way of life. Those persons who are not baptized and who have participated in the Rite of Acceptance into the Church's Order of Catechumens are now identified as "catechumens." Their preparation for the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist include formation in the Word of God at Sunday Mass and at the catechetical sessions during which Catholic teaching and life are studied in depth. Catechumens participate in the life of the local parish community through involvement in outreach and service.

Individuals who have been baptized in another Christian tradition and who wish to become Catholic also participate in the RCIA process. They are called "Candidates" for the profession of faith in the Catholic Church, the sacraments of Confirmation, and First Eucharist, and they also participate in the above formation experience.

The Catechumenate comes to a close when the catechumens participate in the Rite of Election at the cathedral with the Cardinal or local bishop on the first Sunday of Lent. This rite now names them as "the elect", and leads to the next phase of the RCIA, the phase of purification and enlightenment. If you know of anyone interested in the Catholic Church, please encourage them to call the parish office 248-542-8720.