

SPECIAL SITUATIONS IN THE OCIA

The Baptized, Marriage Issues, Children, and the Abbreviated OCIA

The Baptized Candidate

- Candidates refer to:
 - Already-baptized **CHRISTIANS FROM ANOTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION** who are becoming Catholic.
 - Already-baptized **CATHOLICS** who are completing their initiation.
- Do not use the word “CONVERT” to describe these candidates (NORM 18).
- Is the baptism valid?
 - **Water** and “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Evidence: baptismal certificate (preferred) or photos/video
 - Affidavit/statement from an attendee.
 - **Conditional baptism** is a last resort.
- Are they catechized or uncatechized? This determines the type of formation they need.

“Don’t let unnecessary or repetitive formation be an obstacle to initiation or unduly delay initiation.”

The Baptized Candidate

- Timing of Sacraments: **can be done at anytime in the year (with a few exceptions based on the Holy Day being observed)**. At anytime of the year, when the candidates are deemed ready, they are
 - Received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church, Confirmed, and Receive First communion – if they are not already baptized Catholic.
 - or receive Confirmation [and Eucharist] – if they are already baptized Catholic.
- BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLICS: a priest (pastor) does **NOT** need permission from the Bishop to celebrate the Rite of Full Reception and Confirmation.
 - Confirmation **MUST** take place at the Rite of Reception.
 - The priest who receives them **MUST** be the one who confirms.
- BAPTIZED CATHOLICS: a priest (pastor) **DOES** need permission from the Bishop (or local ordinary) to celebrate Confirmation. Or – the candidate is confirmed by the Bishop.

The Baptized Candidate

The OCIA Formation of Candidates

Remember: they are already BAPTIZED.
Honor their baptism!

Remember: they *may* already have had
experience in Christian belief and life.
Respect and celebrate that!



The Baptized Candidate

The OCIA Formation of Candidates



The 4 Pillars of OCIA

1. The Word of God & Catechesis
2. Community
3. Liturgy & Prayer
4. Apostolic Service



The Baptized Candidate

The OCIA Formation of Candidates

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Recognize the **benefit** that catechesis offers to the candidates, but don't turn catechesis into a hoop they have to jump through, especially catechesis that they may think is redundant.

The OCIA calls us to fine-tune the catechesis for individual candidates.

The Baptized Candidate

The OCIA Formation of Candidates

The 4 Pillars of OCIA

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Are the candidates familiar with your parish community? With other Catholics?

- If not: introduce them to the community, very much like how you would with the non-baptized person.
- If so: support the connections they already have! Consider how those connections might be incorporated into their OCIA experience. (youth groups, women's/men's groups, marriage encounter).

The Baptized Candidate

The OCIA Formation of Candidates

The 4 Pillars of OCIA

1. The Word of God & Catechesis
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- Their baptism calls them to PARTICIPATION in the liturgical assembly.
- Candidates are NOT dismissed from the assembly. Foster an appreciation of their baptism and how it gives them certain responsibilities in the liturgy!
 - To recite their baptismal faith in the Creed.
 - To offer the Universal Prayer on behalf of the world as baptized children of God.
 - To offer themselves in prayer in the Eucharistic Prayer as baptized children of God.
 - To go forth and live out their baptismal faith (Dismissal)
- Encourage and develop their personal prayer life.

The Baptized Candidate

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Are the candidates engaged in service?

- If so, continue to support their efforts and help them to see their works through a Catholic lens. (Catholic Social Teaching, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy)
- If not, how you introduce them to Christian service may look a lot like how you introduce the unbaptized to a life of service.
 - Encourage them to share their faith journey and experience (honor their past as Christians!)

The Baptized Candidate

Ritual Practices

OPTIONAL RITES:

Can be celebrated with any candidate; most appropriate for those candidates who are new to the parish community and uncatechized.

- **RITE OF WELCOME**
 - modeled after the Rite of Entrance
 - can be combined with Rite of Entrance
- **RITE OF SENDING TO CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**
 - modeled after the Rite of Sending
 - can be combined with the Rite of Sending.
- **RITE OF CALLING TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**
 - Modeled after the Rite of Election
 - Is combined with the Rite of Election at the Cathedral.
 - May be celebrated in the parish by the pastor without needing permission by the bishop.
- **PENITENTIAL RITE (Scrutiny)**
 - Modeled after the Scrutinies
 - CANNOT be combined with the Scrutinies.

REQUIRED RITE

for the baptized NON-Catholic:

- **The Rite of Reception into Full Communion** joined with:
 - **Confirmation**
 - **First Eucharist**

The official rite “by which a person born and baptized into a separated ecclesial Community is received, according to the Latin rite, into the full communion of the Catholic Church” (OCIA 473).

Can be done

- Within Mass
- Outside of Mass (very rare)

What does this look like ritually?

- Mass begins the usual way and goes through readings and homily.
- Presentation of Candidates
- Recitation of the Creed with the Assembly
- Candidates add: “I believe and profess all that the Catholic Church believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God.”
- Act of Reception into Full Communion
- The Sacrament of Confirmation & Eucharist

The Baptized Candidate

Ritual Practices

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REQUIRED RITE

for the baptized Catholic:

- **The Rite of Confirmation** (from the *Order of Confirmation* ritual book)

To be celebrated by the Bishop:

- At a regional confirmation
- At a parish visit
- At the adult Pentecost Confirmation at the Cathedral

May be celebrated by the pastor of a parish only with permission

- At the Easter Vigil*
- Outside of the Easter Vigil

- **First Eucharist** is also celebrated at the Confirmation Mass if the candidate is not already receiving communion.

Children and the OCIA

“Children.... “of catechetical age”
.... “the age of reason.”
.... “the age of discretion.”



Age

1

2

3

4

5

6

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7

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8

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Use “Order of Baptism of Children”

then receive first communion and
Confirmation at the usual times.

Suggestion for one who is 7 yo:
If baptism is to take place *before* the
parish celebration of First Communion
of classmates: use “OBC”. If *after*
parish celebration: use “OCIA”

Use “OCIA” adapted for children

Confirmation and First Eucharist also
take place at time of Baptism, no
matter their age (even if below 6th gr.)

Children and the OCIA

Considerations for working with children:

- Formation for initiation happens *concurrently* with their participation in regular faith formation activities. “Their initiation progresses gradually and within the supportive setting of this group of companions [already baptized]” OCIA 254.
- Formation involves the parents.

Implications:

Perhaps this model of formation is more akin to baptismal prep for infant baptism, where the parents are the object of formation. Nevertheless, the formation for baptism should involve the children themselves to the degree it is appropriate given their age.

It is important to remember that OCIA is *initiatory* catechesis which (hopefully) leads to *ongoing* catechesis. More important than asking “what do you know” is “who do you know.” You don’t need to cram the entire theology of the Eucharist, baptism, and Confirmation (as understood by second graders) into your catechesis. You do need to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Children and the OCIA

Considerations for working with children:

- Timing:
 - The OCIA suggests following the usual format as it relates to time (so Purification and Enlightenment during Lent; Initiation at the Easter Vigil)
 - But it also allows and encourages that the “celebration must also be consistent with the program of catechetical instruction they are receiving, since the children catechumens should, if possible, come to the sacraments of initiation at the time that their baptized companions are to receive confirmation or Eucharist.” So – perhaps initiate children later in the Easter Season, closer to when First Communion is celebrated in the parish.
 - The OCIA also recommends that a smaller assembly may be more comfortable for the children, so timing may be adjusted for that reason.
- CONSENT of the parents needed, as well as some level of desire by the child him/herself.

Children and the OCIA

Ritual Practices

OPTIONAL RITES:

- RITE OF ENTRANCE

- Simplified to focus on “welcoming”
- Parents may take the place of sponsors.
- It may take place with a small group outside of Mass if desired.

- RITE OF ELECTION

- Although the Cathedral uses the adult rite, child catechumens under the age of 18 are welcome to attend, although it is NOT mandatory for them.
- If desired, a pastor may use the adapted Rite of Election for JUST a child catechumen at the parish.

- SCRUTINIES

- One or two can be celebrated.
- The Scrutiny can be adapted to include those classmates who are preparing for First Reconciliation.
- Also optional in the Scrutiny for children: the anointing with the oil of catechumens or laying on of hands.

REQUIRED RITE:

- **Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist** (from the OCIA adapted for children).

Can use this text

- At the Easter Vigil
- Outside of the Easter Vigil (e.g. consistent with parish celebration of first sacraments)

Pastors CAN combine this baptismal rite with the First Communion of classmates (OCIA 308).

The OCIA also mentions combining with the **confirmation** of classmates, but this is difficult since the diocese celebrates regional confirmations that involve more than just a single parish.

Marriage Matters

Some thoughts:

- When a marriage issue is discovered, refer the catechumen and candidate to the priest or deacon, who will begin the official process necessary.
- As OCIA ministers, our role is accompaniment.
- **Validating (or convalidating) a current marriage** for someone in the OCIA process should be seen as part of the **joyful** process of full initiation into the life of the Church.
- Accompanying someone through an **annulment or dissolution of bond** is part of the **healing** ministry of the Church that can be very beneficial to a candidate or catechumen.

MARRIAGE MATTERS SEGMENT

OCIA DECEMBER WORKSHOP



RECEIVING THE CANDIDATE

AMORIS LAETITIA

297

"Helping them understand the divine pedagogy of grace in their lives

...offering them assistance so they can reach the fullness of God's plan for them."

SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

- Primordial sacrament
- Vocation written in our very nature
- Beginning of Jesus' public life

INQUIRY FORM

ASSUMPTION BVM - ST. GENEVIEVE - ST. BERNADETTE
 73 Weybridge Street
 Middlebury, VT 05753
 802-388-2943

RCIA REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone No: _____
 Email: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

WERE YOU BAPTIZED: Yes ___ No ___

If yes: Name of Church _____
 Denomination: _____
 Date: _____

OTHER SACRAMENTS RECEIVED (and where):

MARITAL STATUS: Married___ Single___ Divorced___ Widowed___

(If Married) Name of Spouse(s): _____
 Church/Place(s) of Marriage: _____
 City/Town/State: _____
 Date(s) of Marriage: _____

(Current Spouse): has prior marriages? _____

REASON FOR COMING TO R.C.I.A.:

___ Thinking of becoming Catholic
 ___ I wish to be baptized
 ___ I want to be Confirmed and/or make First Communion
 ___ Personal faith enrichment
 ___ To support/sponsor a friend

**DIFFERENT STATES OF
CANDIDATES:**

**5 POSSIBLE
SITUATIONS**

#1 NEVER MARRIED, BUT HAS MARRIAGE IN MIND

- Does the spouse-to-be have a prior bond?

#2 COHABITATING: NEVER MARRIED BEFORE, NOT CLEAR ABOUT FUTURE MARRIAGE

- Working towards chastity and marriage?

**#3 NON-CATHOLIC
COUPLE:
MARRIED CIVILLY OR IN
THEIR PRIOR FAITH
TRADITION,
*NO PRIOR MARRIAGES***

- Presumed Valid
- No obstacle to reception of Easter sacraments

#4: CATHOLIC: WISHING TO COMPLETE SACRAMENTS, MARRIED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

- 'Convalidation'
- Radical Sanation

#5: DIVORCED AND REMARRIED

- Gather information
- Reading Scripture with them:
 - Matthew 5: 31-32
 - Or for a fuller picture of a marital bond:
Matthew 19: 1-9

WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY ARE UNABLE/UNWILLING TO MOVE FORWARD?

- “to help each person find his or her proper way of participating in the ecclesial community
- and thus to experience being touched by an ‘unmerited, unconditional and gratuitous’ mercy” (Amoris Laetitia 297)

OTHER QUESTIONS

#1 WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OCIA/ ADULT CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR AND PASTOR

#2 CAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION COINCIDE WITH OCIA/ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION?

#3 I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

- Talk to your Pastor
 - Call the Marriage Tribunal at the Chancery
 - Talk directly to one of our canon lawyers
- Fr. Luke Austin
(*UVM, Burlington*)
 - Fr. Brandon Schneider
(*Assumption BVM, Middlebury*)
 - Fr. Daniel Jordan
(*St. John, Enosburg*)
 - Fr. Thomas Mattison
(*Holy Cross, Colchester*)



**IF NOT 100% SURE,
CALL SOMEONE!**

God bless your work
in Evangelization!

Marriage Matters

Some final thoughts:

- Someone who is in an irregular marriage situation and in need of a declaration of nullity and/or convalidation cannot be sacramentally initiated or received into Full Communion, except in danger of death.
- Irregular marriages MUST be resolved before a catechumen is admitted to the Rite of Election or a candidate goes celebrations the Rite of Reception into Full Communion.
- When facing these situations and uncertainties, it is important to remind those in the OCIA:
 - Those unbaptized CAN go through the Rite of Entrance and become Catechumens. Becoming a catechumen makes you a member of the Church. They are a part of our faith community.
 - Those baptized are also considered members of the household of faith by virtue of their baptism. They are a part of our faith community.

The Abbreviated OCIA

When to use this abbreviated rite:

- In situations where the full rollout of the OCIA rites are not possible. Sickness, old age, change of residence, long absences due to travel, military service, change in family situation...situations that prevent the celebration of separate rites as envisioned by the full OCIA.
 - First consider what rites are optional and what's required in the full OCIA . If one is absent from a rite that is considered optional, you need not consider this abbreviated rite.
 - Mandatory: Rite of Entrance, Rite of Election, Scrutinies, Initiation
 - Optional: Rite of Sending to Election, Handing on of the Creed and Lord's Prayer, Immediate Preparatory Rites
 - Then, consider if individual rites can be rescheduled to a more convenient time before considering abbreviating the rite.
- The rites may also be abbreviated when “the local Ordinary, judging the sincerity of the individual's Christian conversion and religious maturity, decides that he/she may receive Baptism without delay” (OCIA 331).

The Abbreviated OCIA

Who to use this abbreviated rite with:

- This abbreviated rite is only meant for the unbaptized. It is dependent on their particular situation, NOT the level of catechesis they have.
- Is there an abbreviated OCIA rite for already-baptized candidates? NO...
 - Since all the rites prior to their Reception into Full Communion and/or Confirmation are optional to begin with, there's no need to come up with the ritual that abbreviates them.
 - If you have a Candidate in a particular situation, and the preparatory rites aren't possible (Rite of Welcoming, Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion, Penitential Act), skip what needs to be skipped.
 - Upon discerning that the Candidate is ready to be fully initiated, and after they have celebrated the Rite of Penance, celebrate the Rite of Reception into Full Communion and/or Confirmation.

The Abbreviated OCIA

Requirements to celebrate the Abbreviated Rite:

- Requirement for Formation (OCIA 336):
 - An “adequate period” of formation in order to purify the motives to Baptism and to allow conversion and faith to mature.
 - At least an acquaintance with the local parish community.
 - The selection of a godfather or godmother.
- Requirement to Celebrate this Ritual:
 - **PERMISSION OF THE BISHOP IS NEEDED.**
 - How the ritual is celebrated:
 - The ritual may be celebrated all on one occasion, as it is laid out,
or
 - the process can be expanded (with the permission of the Bishop) to include rituals omitted in this abbreviated Rite that are included in the Full OCIA.

The Abbreviated OCIA

Rite of Reception

- Greeting
- Optional song
- Opening Dialogue
- Initial Commitment
- Affirmation Godparent
- Introduction [Invitation] into the Church
- Opening Procession

Rite
of
Entrance

What about the
RITE OF ELECTION?

PERMISSION NEEDED
FROM THE BISHOP

Liturgy of the Word

- Readings
- Homily
- Intercessions
- Optional Penitential Rite
- Prayer of Exorcism
- Laying on of Hands

Scrutiny

Celebration of Baptism
Celebration of Confirmation
Celebration of the Eucharist

Initiation

THAT'S ALL FOLKS.

THANK YOU FOR ALL
YOU DO!