

**Diocese of Metuchen**  
**Clarification on Initiation and Confirmation**  
**and**  
**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

*Some helpful reminders issued jointly by the Department of Worship and Liturgical Formation and the Office of RCIA:*

1. **Unbaptized adults** are normally led through a full-length Catechumenate as described in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The standard period of preparation is at least 12 months. The Rite exempts only those in extraordinary circumstances (like danger of death). In extraordinary circumstances the pastor should notify the Office of the Chancellor and submit the reason for the shortened Catechumenate.

These Catechumens receive all three sacraments at the Easter Vigil. The Catechumenate process should continue, through the Mystagogy Period, to Pentecost.

These Catechumens are also required to participate in the Rite of Election, and the strong preference is to have all Catechumens participate in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral with our Bishop. Catechumens are exempt from attending the Rite of Election at the Cathedral only for extraordinary circumstances. In case of extraordinary circumstances, dispensation must be sought from the Bishop, and the Pastor must seek delegation to celebrate a Rite of Election at a Sunday Liturgy prior to the 3rd Sunday of Lent. During the Parish Celebration, a page from the Book of Elect must be signed by the Catechumen and forwarded to the Diocesan Office of RCIA. The Elect is required to participate in the Three Scrutinies, on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. Dispensation for two of the three Sundays will be granted only by approval from the Bishop.

2. **Baptized Christians who seek Full Reception into the Communion of the Catholic Church**, whether or not they are catechized, may receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil if they have taken part in a Catechumenate. These Candidates may also complete their initiation at any Sunday Eucharist.

When the Candidate is an uncatechized baptized Catholic, under the age of 18, who has gone through the Catechumenate Process and is ready to receive Confirmation and Eucharist, the pastor must apply for delegation to confirm. Delegation is sought **ONLY** when the Candidate is under the age of 18 and has been baptized Catholic.

3. **Adult Catholics seeking Confirmation only** do not belong in the Catechumenate, but in a separate program of preparation. They are confirmed on a Sunday of the EASTER SEASON, at the parish, provided the pastor has requested and receives delegation from the Bishop. They are *not* to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil. Exceptions for other Sundays during the year might be granted due to pastoral necessity, but this should be the exception. The goal is to confirm them during the Easter Season.

**The following forms can be obtained from the Diocesan RCIA Office:**

- Request for the Delegation to Preside at a Parish Rite of Election.
- Request for a Dispensation from One or Two Scrutinies.
- Request for Permission to Use the Short Form of Christian Initiation.
- Request for Delegation to Confirm Baptized but Uncatechized Catholic Children Who are to Receive Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Same Liturgy (7 to 18 years of age).

**The following form can be obtained from the Office of the Bishop:**

- Pastor's Request for Delegation to Confirm Baptized Catholic Adults 18 years or older. (This form is not needed when the Baptized Catholic Adult is receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist at the same liturgy.)

**Contact Information:**

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