



RCIA

Below are some resources for your RCIA teams. They cover topics such as the role of discernment, best practices and disciple-making. While they do not all specifically address the needs of children of catechetical age, some are easily adaptable. ***If you are looking for specific resources for the Rite of Christian Initiation adapted for Children of Catechetical age please contact our office and we will be happy to assist you.***

You will also find resources to help those people who are already baptized but seeking full initiation into the Church.

Getting Started

If you are just getting started with RCIA or for an overview as a refresher, these resources are a good starting-point for you and your RCIA team:

- 1) **The RCIA Ritual Text:** This is the ritual for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It provides the liturgical rites for Christian initiation. It also helps provide a framework for catechesis. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact our office at 416.934.3400, ext.523.
- 2) **Journey of Faith.** This out-of-the-box resource from **Ligouri Publications** contains materials for each period of the RCIA. It also has resources for adapting the program for children and teens as well as a leader's guide. While it can be used "as is", it also has the ability to be adapted to better suit the needs of the community.
- 3) **Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained:** This video series from the **Augustine Institute** is also available on FORMED. It is a systematic presentation of the Catholic Faith in video form. It has two parts with ten sessions each. The first part focuses on knowing the faith and the second on living the faith. Each video is under 1 hour, most are approximately 35 minutes. The videos also have Spanish subtitles.
- 4) **This is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults Revised and Updated Edition** by **Michael Pennock**. This book goes through the Catechism by looking at "big picture" questions (for example: How do we learn of Salvation History? What are some Biblical and Historical Roots of Confirmation? What does the Church teach about peace?). It provides answers based on the relevant sections of the Catechism and at the end of each chapter offers concluding reflections, prayers, and discussion questions.
- 5) **Field Hospital Catechesis: The Core Content for RCIA Formation** by **Nick Wagner**: This book looks into the importance of the first proclamation that Jesus Christ saves us. In light of that proclamation, it discusses the vocation of catechists and how embracing both the first proclamation and that vocation can help change the RCIA in your parish and help make disciples.
- 6) **An Introduction to the RCIA: The Vision of Christian Initiation** by **Ronald J. Lewinski**: This book provides an introduction and overview to the RCIA. It includes answers to questions such as "For whom is the RCIA intended?" and looks at the important role that all the baptized have. Each chapter includes questions for discussion and reflection.
- 7) **Look for RCIA catechists who are good at these three things:** This article from TeamRCIA provides some helpful things to look for when looking for and recruiting RCIA catechists. If you aren't sure who to ask, this is a good starting-point!
- 8) **20 Ideas for finding RCIA sponsors:** If you're struggling to find RCIA sponsors, or if you're just looking to include more people in the RCIA process, this article from TeamRCIA could be of help. It is a list of 20 people you may not have thought to ask to be RCIA sponsors, including choir members, ushers, and those who have completed their neophyte year.

Growing

If you already have some experience with RCIA and are looking for a little bit more information, guidance, or recommendations, these resources might be for you:

- 1) [**Seek the Living God: Five RCIA Inquiry Questions for Making Disciples**](#) by **Nick Wagner**: This book provides guidance for how to have a faith formation plan that is unique to each person and their individual needs. It also shows how this method of formation can allow those involved in RCIA formation to shift from being the “expert” to being the “mentor” or “coach” for those in RCIA.
- 2) [**The Secret to Leading RCIA Catechesis**](#): This article from TeamRCIA explains that the primary goal of RCIA catechesis is to help lead people to Jesus Christ. The secret to leading RCIA then is to not just to teach theology but to proclaim that Jesus Christ loves them.
- 3) [**Five Powerful discernment practices for RCIA teams**](#): This article from TeamRCIA highlights how discerning the readiness of catechumens is often a major challenge for RCIA teams. It notes that Discernment is not about judgement but is a communal listening to the Holy Spirit. The article then provides five ways to help in that listening.
- 4) [**How Does Someone Become Catholic**](#) by **Breaking in the Habit**: It contains information on the process of initiation for both non-baptized people and baptized Christians. The video serves as a good overview of the process for those thinking about initiation and those who volunteer in the RCIA program. It is a US resource so the timeline and some of the particulars vary in the Archdiocese of Toronto, but the outline and theology are sound.
- 5) [**RCIA Discernment: How do you know if they "know enough"?**](#): This article from TeamRCIA looks at the RCIA ritual text and provides an outline of the criteria for readiness at each period of the RCIA journey.
- 6) [**Welcome Home: A Convert's Guide to the RCIA**](#): This article from Busted Halo

provides some advice from “a former RCIA participant and Adult Faith Formation parish minister” for those who are starting RCIA.

- 7) **OFD Monthly Update- Flocknote**: Sign up to receive information from our office regarding formation events through this link: <http://bit.ly/OFDNewsletter>.

Going Deeper

If you’ve been involved in RCIA for a while, these resources are for you. They will help you delve deeper into some particular RCIA needs and concerns:

- 1) [**How neophytes learn to participate in the Mass**](#): This article from TeamRCIA invites us to look at the ways in which we might have not prepared the neophytes to participate in the Mass and what we might do to help neophytes participate more fully.
- 2) [**Six simple ways to improve your children's RCIA process**](#): This article from TeamRCIA provides some helpful insights to improve children’s RCIA in the parish. It includes ways to involve parents and ways to strengthen the liturgical aspects of RCIA.

Contact Details

If you have questions about these resources, formation and training opportunities, or other things related to RCIA please contact Michelle Brylowski, Associate Director, RCIA and Liturgical Formation at 416-934-3400, ext. 525 or mbrylowski@archtoronto.org