

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

How does our parish attract inquirers each year who consider becoming Catholic?

The short answer is you! When any parish has many inquirers year after year, it is the fruit of the holy Spirit as parish members open their hearts to welcome others. Members of a welcoming and evangelizing community take seriously their call to share the Divine message of salvation. It happens in parish families, in the workplace, in gatherings with friends and neighbors, and in daily contacts. Give thanks to God as He continuously strengthens each of us who seek to do his will in offering a gentle, humble, and clear welcome to the Catholic faith. *“Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”* (Mark16:15)

What is OCIA?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process established for the universal Church for individuals to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. The initiation process also involves a parish community experiencing a renewal in faith as it prepares and welcomes new members into the Church. The Rite speaks of conversion as a “spiritual journey.” Centered on fostering a deep relationship with Jesus and the Church he founded, this journey takes place through distinct stages over a period of time suitable to bring about a thorough catechesis, significant experience of the parish community, and commitment to the liturgical and moral life of the Catholic faithful. The OCIA process is a restoration of the ancient catechumenate, arising within the first three centuries following the era of the Apostles. It was the early Churches way of Christianizing the pagan Roman Empire. The Second Vatican Council called for the restoration and use of this venerable and powerful method of initiation for the worldwide Church.

Who is OCIA for?

1. Persons in need of Baptism.
2. Persons baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic.
3. Persons baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation.

How did a person become Catholic before OCIA?

At most parishes, the person was given individual instruction by the parish priest, or someone delegated by him.

Why the change?

There were a number of limitations to private instruction. The priest was the only member of the Catholic community with whom the inquirer had contact, apart from any supporting family and friends. Private instruction did not ensure that the inquirer had a lived experience of the Catholic Faith, or was exposed to authentic Christian charity as lived in a parish community.

How long is the OCIA process?

The time varies, but rarely shorter than six months, or longer than three years. The Church greatly respects the time each person needs for conversion and decision.

Who does one contact if they are interested?

Contact Deacon David Belanger at David1625@yahoo.com

Yes, I am interested in becoming Catholic.

Here is my contact information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

You can hand this form to Deacon David, Father Liguori, put in the collection containers, or turn in to the Church office.