

Catechesis in the Initiation Process



BUILDING BLOCKS FOR CATECHESIS

STYLE OF CATECHESIS

QUALITIES OF CATECHISTS

LECTIONARY AS PRIMARY TEXT

SKILLS THAT WORK

ROLE OF COMMUNITY


Building Blocks for Catechesis

Based
on the
Liturgy of
the Word



Style of Catechesis and the Gifts Needed



 ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE
RCIA Study Days
Summer 2011

The Year-Round Catechumenate is a true possibility for all faith communities. However, it takes creativity, collaboration and commitment!

Gather with the Archdiocesan RCIA Team to discuss what it takes to move toward this exciting and fruitful goal.

As you prepare for this Study Day, we ask that you read Mary Birmingham's "Year-Round Catechumenate." Though you may not be ready to implement this approach, Birmingham shares personal experience that will enlighten our minds to a variety of successful characteristics found in various Initiation Teams. In our gathering together, we expect participants to come with their own "glory stories," challenges, best practices and questions.


These Study Days are open to anyone interested! Pastors and PLD's, deacons, catechetical leaders, RCIA coordinators and teams, pastoral musicians and liturgists—or those in formation for the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, lay ministry...

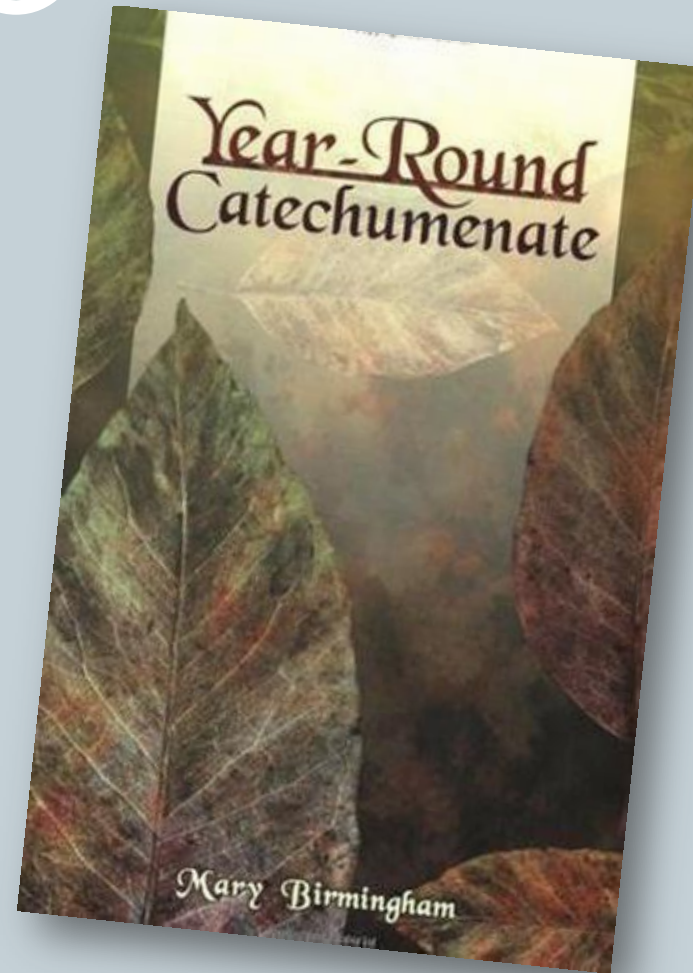
Frederick County	Sat., August 6, 2011	10:30am-12:30pm
Howard / Anne Arundel	Tues., August 9, 2011	6:30-8:30pm
Baltimore County	Wed., August 10, 2011	12:30-2:30pm
Baltimore City	Wed., August 13, 2011	10:30am-12:30pm
Baltimore / Harford	Sat., August 17, 2011	6:30-8:30pm
Western Maryland	TBD	

Locations are still to be determined.
If you would like to host a Study Day, please e-mail us at RCIA@archbalt.org.

For more details, registration information or to purchase the "Year-Round Catechumenate," please visit the website listed above.

WWW.ARCHBALT.ORG/EVANGELIZATION/WORSHIP/RCIA/
RCIA@archbalt.org 410-547-5403

 ARCHDIOCESAN RCIA TEAM
Catherine Comblor-Dunovan
Michael Ruzicki



Style of Catechesis and the Gifts Needed



- **PRE-CATECHUMENATE & EVANGELIZATION**
 - Storytellers
 - ✦ “They know the great stories of scripture and can relate those stories to their own lives and the lives of others.”
 - Active Listeners
 - ✦ “They need to know how to listen to the cues that signal opportunities of the “a-ha” moments.
 - Have led faith-sharing groups
 - Proficient with the dynamics of Christian witness
 - Paragraph 42 etched in their minds
 - ✦ and lead the inquirers more deeply into conversion
 - Have a willingness to enter into an honest, discerning dialogue

Style of Catechesis and the Gifts Needed



- **CATECHUMENATE**

- Catechesists, Parishioners, Sponsors, Director, Priest, Deacon
- Active, believing member of the Christian community
 - ✦ and they truly believe that the community is the one that forms and initiates
- Knows the parish well and can invite them into the process
 - ✦ asking the faithful to companion or come share stories
- Understands that the life of the community is grounded in the liturgy
- Skilled in asking questions that challenge attitudes and ways of looking at behavior in the world

Style of Catechesis and the Gifts Needed



- **CATECHUMENATE**

- Knows how to ask the “so what” questions
- Understands that the Christian life is apostolic
- They may have certain areas that interest them
 - ✦ Use the expertise of the team members
- Flexible, Dedicated, Communicative, Engaging, Creative
- Can work to make Paragraph 75 (!!!) a reality in the parish

Style of Catechesis and the Gifts Needed



- **PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT**
 - Able to lead spiritual preparation
 - Facilitate the lenten baptismal and penitential preparation of the elect

Style of Catechesis and the Gifts Needed



- **MYSTAGOGY**

- “Those who are at home in the world of symbols.”
 - ✦ “Teachers are not always good mystagogues. Poets and artists, however, might make wonderful catechists.”
- Able to invite the neophyte to embrace the mystery with renewed insight
- Has lived the paschal mystery themselves
 - ✦ has the wisdom to invite others into the ongoing mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection
- Able to allow the neophytes to discover for themselves...
 - ✦ what they experienced
 - ✦ how to weave that experience into their lives

Lectionary as Primary Text

FIRST READING – 5th Sunday in Easter (Year A) [Acts 6:1-7](#)

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said,

“It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.



Dismissal Catechesis (30 min.)

Getting Started

1. Prepare the space ahead of a table draped with a white cloth. Place a large white candle and arrange spring flowers.
2. Lead the candidates and the Lectionary on the table standing, lead the catechists in the reading of the Gospel Alleluia. When they finish, invite them to pray these or your own words: *Our faith. Like your faith.*

Extended Catechesis

SESSION FOCUS: *The Sacrament of Holy Orders and the Common Priesthood of the Baptized*

Gather

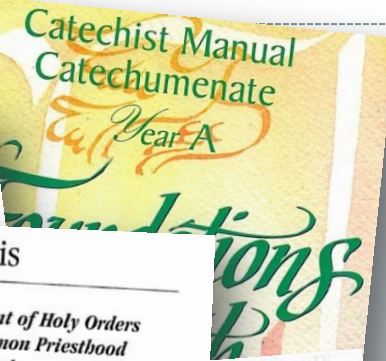
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Catholic Doctrine

The Sacrament of Holy Orders and the Common Priesthood of the Baptized

Catholic Culture

Vestments are the special garments worn by ministers at the celebration of liturgy. They originated in the time of the late Roman Empire. The ordinary clothing for men at this time was a long tunic tied at the waist (the origin of the present-day alb and cincture) and a large serape-like over-garment (the origin of the present-day chasuble). While everyday garments changed after the fall of the Empire, clergy continued to use these styles in the celebration of liturgy—hence, they took on symbolic meaning. Priests wear the alb, chasuble, and stole (a narrow band of cloth worn across the back of the neck and hanging down the front, as did Roman judges and other officials as a sign of their office). Bishops also wear the same vestments but with the addition of a mitre (a pointed hat, to symbolize their office of ruling, like a crown). Deacons wear albs, dalmatics (similar to a chasuble but closed on the sides), and stoles worn over only one shoulder (ModCathE 898). Laypersons who minister at liturgy sometimes wear an alb, the white garment which symbolizes baptism.



...that of Jesus Christ. The Lord is the Son of God, whose ministry is accomplished as a servant. The Son has been made holy and sent into the world and to accompany the world in humility (LG 28).

...sends the Holy Spirit upon the whole Church and endows the community of the Church in his servant nature. Thus, as the Father and the Spirit teaches, Jesus makes the whole Church in the Spirit in which he has been anointed, fruitful. All who are made a holy and kingly priesthood offer spiritual sacrifices to God through prayer and they proclaim the virtues of him who has brought us from darkness into his admirable light” (PO 1998). The members of the Church are privileged to participate in the priesthood of Jesus Christ (CCC 1591).

...to summarize the Catechesis. ... or phrases from the ... nt, writing large ... es not name the

... following, add them to the list.

Skills that Work & The Role of the Community



PARAGRAPH 75

Word

Liturgy

Community

Apostolic Witness / Service

SHAPING A CATECHUMENAL SESSION

Prepared by Clare Colella

1. Discern and plan:
 - a. At what point are participants in their formation?
 - b. What particular needs and questions have been arising from participants? What understandings do they have? What needs to be deepened, explained, clarified?

2. What is the Lectionary saying at this time – this week, these few weeks? How are participants learning to listen to and learn from the Sunday liturgies?

3. Lectionary-based – doctrinal elements – Catholic teaching, practice, Catholic culture
 - a. Discern the primary focus of this particular session: prayer, liturgy, community, catechesis, apostolic work
 - b. Vary style of session accordingly

4. Study and gather resources – including facilitators/presenters
 - a. Be sure participants have /receive resources for themselves as well
 - b. Have available additional resources for those who may seek more

5. Plan the flow and sequence of the session – utilizing good adult catechetical methodology
 6. Incorporate prayer, ritual, and alternative experiences as integral and appropriate
 7. Look to life and lived faith – help participants know how to link life, faith and formation
 8. Build in time for questions, sharing, journaling on occasion
 9. Take time to evaluate both the participants and the session and make notes to help with successive sessions.
-
- The length of time spent on topics/experiences will vary depending on the needs of participants.
 - Be aware of the different learning/formation styles of participants – respond to what works for them.
 - Consider the overall formation process, and what needs to be done to help the participants grow as disciples and apprentices in faith.
 - Be attentive to your own growth and creativity as ministers and fellow pilgrims.

Cautions

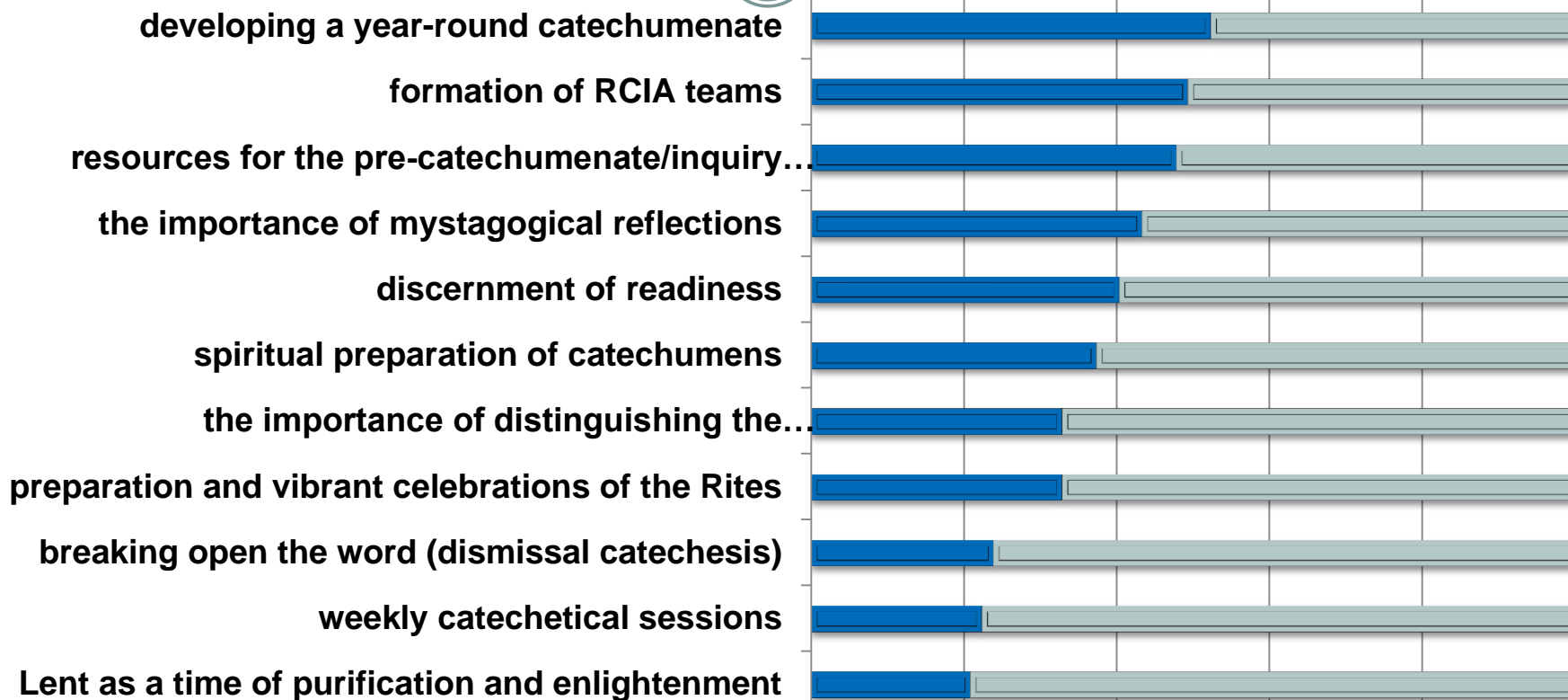


- Beware of **programmatic approach**,
reliance on pre-packaged program of material
- Beware of **fundamentalism** or a **too-casual attitude**
- Note **absenteeism**
- Note other **needs or life events of participants**,
especially annulments, other canonical and life issues
- Plan for on-going process, **flexible** schedules, multiple
opportunities for rite of acceptance/welcoming
- Assure varied catechists and **methods/styles** of gatherings
- Assure varied **resources and availability** to participants
- Use **rituals, prayers, music**
- Keep regular contact with **sponsors**,
incorporate them into the process effectively



What else...?

RCIA@archbalt.org





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RCIA@archbalt.org

AUGUST 6, 10³⁰-12³⁰

FREDERICK COUNTY

AUGUST 9, 6³⁰-8³⁰

HOWARD/ANNE ARUNDEL

AUGUST 10, 12³⁰-2³⁰

BALTIMORE COUNTY

AUGUST 13, 10³⁰-12³⁰

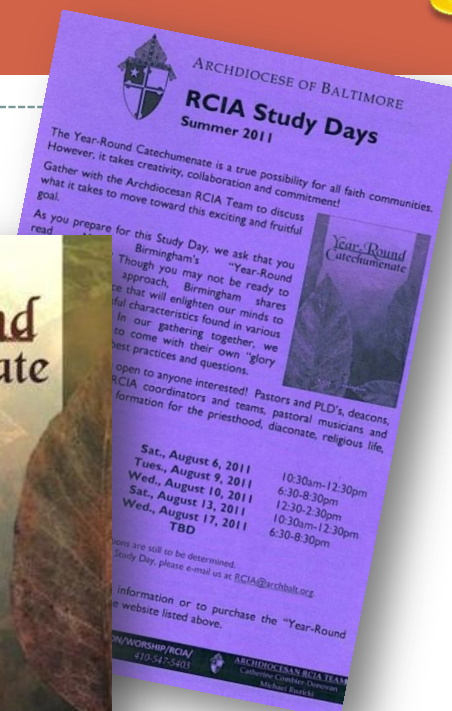
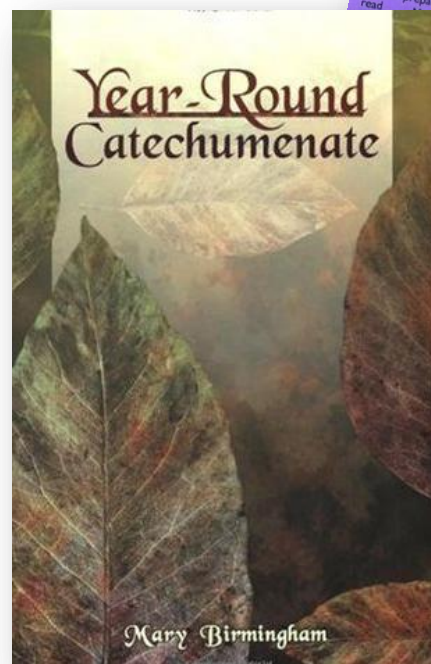
BALTIMORE CITY

AUGUST 17, 6³⁰-8³⁰

BALTIMORE/HARFORD

DATE: TBA

WESTERN MARYLAND





What else...?

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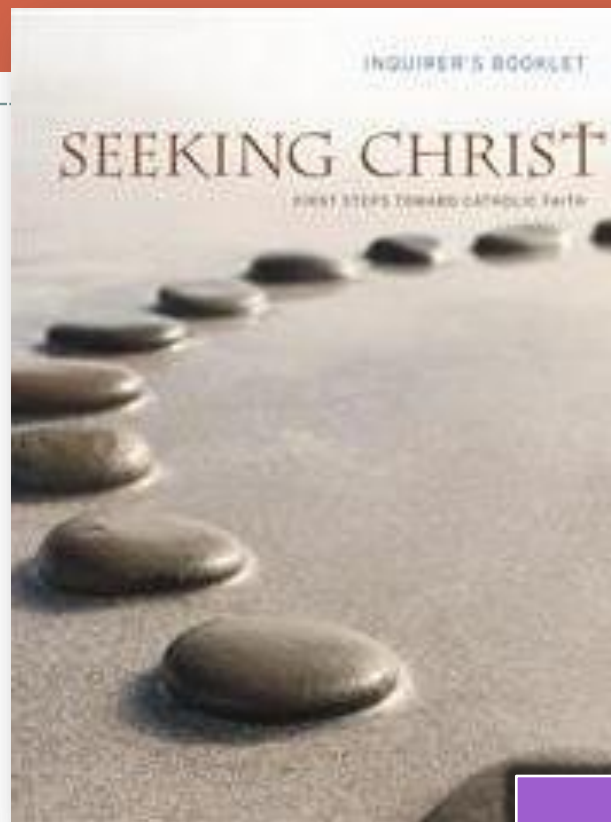
**RESOURCE
DAY**



ST. BERNARDINE CHURCH

SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 2011

10⁰⁰-12³⁰



**Purple
Handout**



What else...?

RCIA@archbalt.org



CHILDREN & CHRISTIAN INITIATION

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON, DC

AUGUST 12-13

CONCERNING THE BAPTIZED

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

JUNE 17-18

**Blue
Handout**