



Liturgical / Mystagogical Catechesis



- Preparation (spiritual)
 - Not “rehearsal” or “explanation.”
- Ritual or event
 - Not “performance.”
- Reflection (spiritual)
 - Not “evaluation” or “explanation.”



What promotes participation?

■ Ritual flow

- Knowing what to do next
 - not worrying about the “script”
 - healthy repetition
- Having a pattern that tells a story
 - must be clear “what they did in there”
 - Could your mother or a 6-year-old say what happened in the rite?



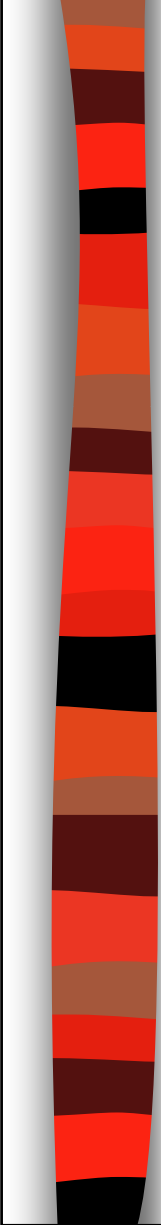
Studying a rite: Know the structure

- What is the purpose of the rite?
 - What does it expect has happened before it?
 - What does it ritualize (what does it *do*)?
 - What does it expect will happen after it?



Studying a rite: Know the structure

- How does the rite begin?
- What is the role of the Word / the candidates / companions / assembly in the rite?
- What is the rite's climax?
- How does the rite end?



Studying a rite: Know who's who

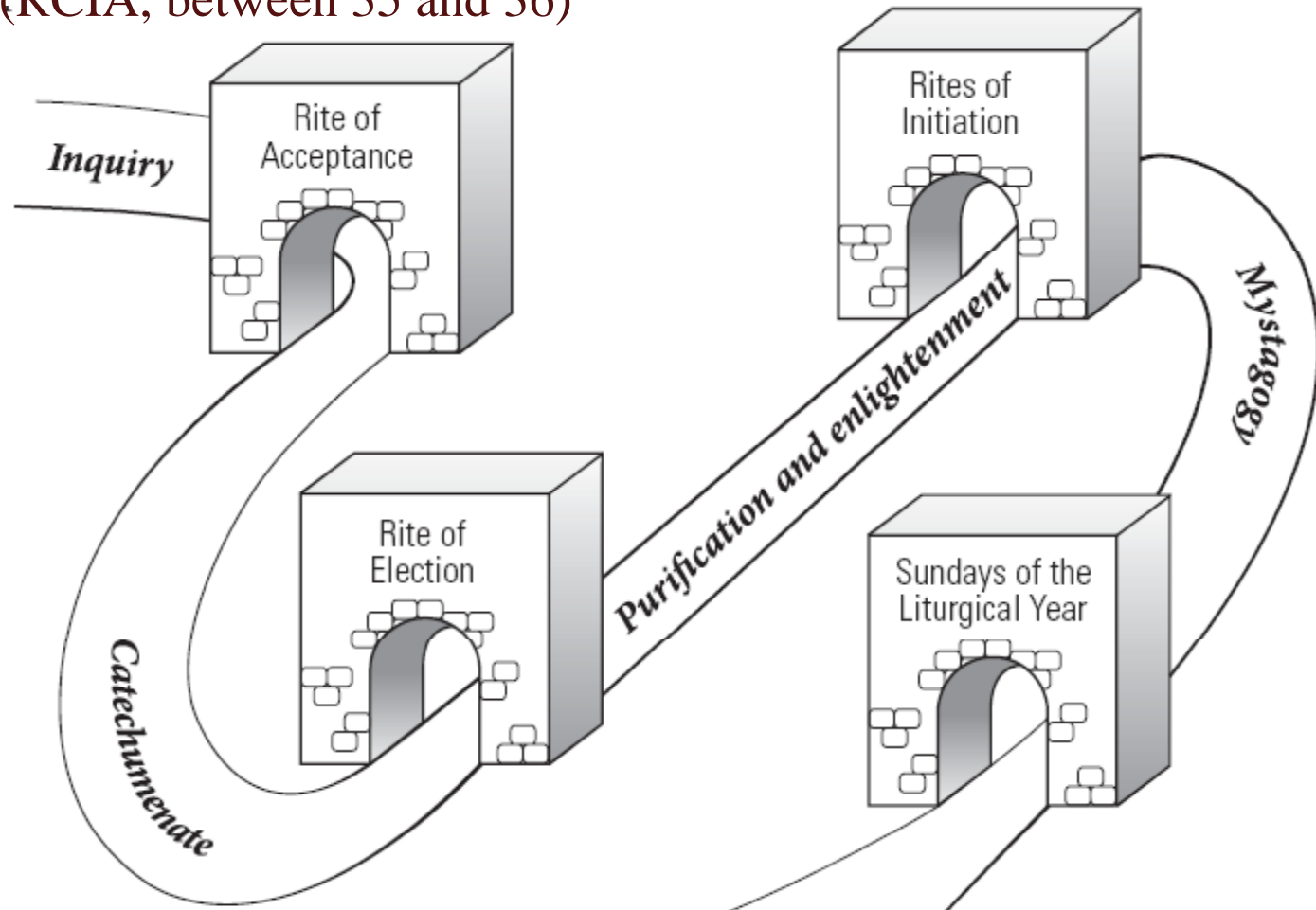
- Who is the rite is for?
 - Difference between catechumens and candidates
 - Two meanings of “candidate” in the rites
 - “Convert”

Studying a rite: It's like jazz

- Celebrants should make
 - full and intelligent use of the freedom given to them (RCIA 35)

- How to “read a rite”
 - Table of contents
 - Introduction to the RCIA
 - Praenotanda (notes before each Rite)
 - Preferences in options and choices
 - Optional parts

The Journey of Faith and Conversion (RCIA, between 35 and 36)



Graphic: © 2008, Nick Wagner, *The Way of Faith*, p. 46

Rite of Acceptance

RCIA 18, 41-74



Rite of Acceptance

- What is the purpose of the rite?
 - What does it expect has happened before it?
 - RCIA 42, 43, 18

What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

Evidence of first faith

What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

**Initial conversion and
intention to change their lives**

Evidence of first faith

What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

First stirrings of repentance

Initial conversion and intention to change their lives

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What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

**Start to practice calling
on God in prayer**

First stirrings of repentance

Initial conversion and intention to change their lives

Evidence of first faith

What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

A sense of the Church

Start to practice calling on God in prayer

First stirrings of repentance

Initial conversion and intention to change their lives

Evidence of first faith

What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

Experience of the company of Christians

A sense of the Church

Start to practice calling on God in prayer

First stirrings of repentance

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What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

Instructed about the rite

Experience of the company of Christians

A sense of the Church

Start to practice calling on God in prayer

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What needs to happen before Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 42, 43, 18)

Sufficient time to evaluate and purify dispositions

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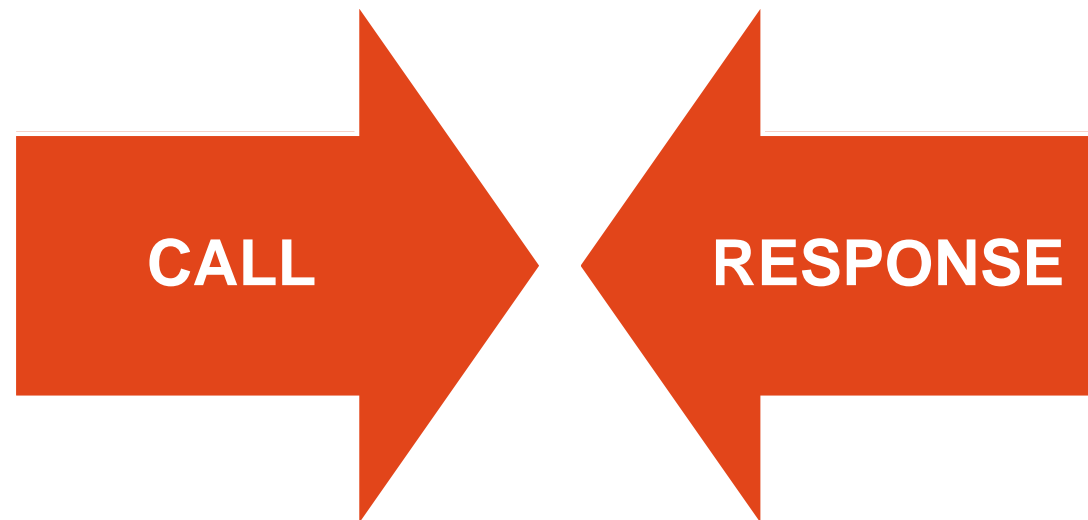


Rite of Acceptance

- What is the purpose of the rite?
 - What does it ritualize (what does it *do*)?
 - RCIA 41

What the Rite of Acceptance ritualizes (RCIA 41)

- Two-fold action



Call and response / genuine dialogue

(RCIA 52)

■ First Acceptance of the Gospel

- A promise is being made
- Form C was the original and demonstrates the linkage between the dialog and the promise:

- *What does faith offer you?*



- *Eternal life.*



- *This is eternal life...*



Rite of Acceptance

- What is the purpose of the rite?
 - What does it expect will happen after it?
 - RCIA 46, 47



What happens after the Rite of Acceptance (RCIA 46, 47)

- Names are recorded in register of catechumens
- They are joined to the Church
 - Church embraces them as her own
 - Church feeds them with the Word
 - Church sustains them with liturgy
 - Catechumens participate in liturgy and receive blessings
 - Rite of Marriage and Christian funeral

When does the rite happen (RCIA 18, NS 6)

- At least 12 months before the Easter Vigil
- Preferably 12 months before Ash Wednesday





Rite of Acceptance

- How does the rite begin?
- What is the role of the Word in the rite?
- What is the rite's climax?
- How does the rite end?

What are the primary symbols of the Rite of Acceptance?



- **Assembly** (RCIA 45, 53, 65)
- **Threshold / Door** (RCIA 48)
 - “passing over”
 - transformation
 - liminality
 - knocking??
- **Cross** (RCIA 54-57)
- **Gospel / Word** (RCIA 52, 60-67)



The Cross (RCIA 53-57)

- Signing with the Cross
 - This is *the* moment, the turning point
 - The Cross is a direct result of accepting the gospel
 - Note the name change (end of 56, rubrics)



The Word (RCIA 52, 60-67)

■ Proclamation of the Word

- note presentation of a Bible (RCIA 64)
- intercessions for the catechumens (RCIA 65)
- dismissal of catechumens (RCIA 67)



Options and Adaptations

- Unbaptized children RCIA 260-276
- Baptized Christians RCIA 411-433
 - Rite of Welcoming (optional)
- Unbaptized & baptized RCIA 505-529
 - Who’s inside and who’s outside? (cf. RCIA 416)
 - What are we “welcoming” the baptized to? (RCIA 509)

Learn more at:

TEAMRCIA.COM
Prepare to Initiate