

Course Description

The current *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) was promulgated January 6, 1972 and the use of the Rite was made mandatory in all U.S. Dioceses in September of 1988. The RCIA is a process through which non-baptized and baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes four distinct stages of formation:

- Evangelization or Pre-catechumenate
- Catechumenate
- Period of Purification and Enlightenment
- Mystagogy

In 2001, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published the results of a three year study on the implementation of the Rite, *Journey to the Fullness of Life*. The results of this comprehensive study make it clear that the RCIA is essential for the rich and healthy life of the Church in the United States. It is also clear from the study that the implementation of the Rite can be improved in many ways and that the Rite must continue to be a major priority in the local parishes.

Course Objectives:

- This course will help deacons explore the RCIA, using the four stages of the RCIA as the guide for the course.
- By looking to the various stages of formation this course will invite participants to reflect on ways his parish implements the RCIA.
- While previous experience working with the RCIA is a benefit in the course, deacons new to the process and also those wanting to know more about the RCIA should find value in taking this course and be able to help implement or improve the RCIA process in his parish ministry assignment.

Course Content

Module 1

- Course Introduction
- A brief history of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.
- Assignment: Read the Introduction and pp. 1-6 of the RCIA Study Guide
- Assignment: Read Doors to the Sacred book pp. 1-160
- Assignment : Develop a list of questions and objectives on what you want to get out of this course

Module 2

- The Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Assignment: Read Doors to the Sacred pp. 161-306
- Assignment: Outline each Chapter on the Sacraments of Initiation

Module 3

- What is a Catechumen?
- What is a Candidate for Full Communion?
- Who are the Elect?
- Assignment: Quiz on Module #1 and #2

Module 4

- The First stage: The Pre-catechumenate
- First session: setting up the RCIA room and The Christ Candle
- Introducing the RCIA to the inquirers and their companions
- Read the Introductory “tab” from Come and See on the Pre-catechumenate

Module 5

- Clergy and Parish support
- Portraying an Adult Education Model/Evangelization
- *Example Presentation*: “What is the RCIA?”
- Setting up a team of Catechists, Godparents, Sponsors, Companions and Hospitality
- Assignment: Develop a Day of Reflection/Workshop for your RCIA Team

Module 6

- Possible resources/programs to help you get started:
- Lecture/class based structure programs
- Lectionary based structure programs
- Educational classes and Dismissals – how they can work together
- Assignment: Develop your own Power Point Presentation on “What is the RCIA”

Module 7

- Recruiting Inquirers: getting information
- Possible inquirer issues with the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Individual interviews and weekly Conferences
- The Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming
- Assignment: Read Doors to the Sacred pp.397-452
- Assignment: Write a brief explanation of the Annulment procedure that you would give to an inquirer with Marriage issues.

Module 8

- The Second stage: The Catechumenate
- Setting up a schedule of quality conferences
- Curriculum
- Sunday dismissals and the importance of attending Mass
- *Example presentations*: “Who is Jesus?”; “What is Sin?”; “What is the Church?”; The Person and Social Teachings of the Church
- Read: The Introductory “tab” from Come and See on The Catechumenate
- Assignment: Develop a calendar for your curriculum and dismissal sessions

Module 9

- The third stage: The Period of Purification and Enlightenment
- How should parishes celebrate the period of Election through the Easter Vigil?
- Rite of Sending/Rite of Election and role of the Bishop
- The Scrutinies
- The Presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer
- Read: the Introductory “tab” from Come and See on The Purification and Enlightenment
- Assignment: Put together a “ceremonial” for the various rituals that take place in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment

Module 10

- The fourth stage: Mystagogy.
- What is it and why is it important?
- Ongoing opportunities for adult education and evangelization
- Getting involved in the parish
- Read the Introductory “tab” from Come and See on Mystagogy and Discipleship

Module 11

- Read: Study of implementation of the Rite in U.S. dioceses, Journey to the Fullness of Life.
- Quiz on Journey to the Fullness of Life

Module 12

- What more can we be doing?
- Getting the “neophytes” involved in ministry and continuing their faith formation
- Assignment: Develop a plan to get the “neophytes” involved in your parish

Course Format

- Twelve sessions in duration, this includes orientation to online learning.
- Supplemental readings are provided to encourage further exploration of topic, internet links provided for all readings.
- Short written assignments (150-200 words) required.
- Facilitator-moderated chat session with students in course.

Required Texts

RCIA Study Edition

USCCB Publishing item 7949

ISBN: 978-0-930467-94-4

Pages: 375

Binding Information: Paperback

Pages: 375

Price: \$25

Journey to the Fullness of Life

USCCB Product Code: 5-392

ISBN: 978-1-57455-392-5

Pages: 64

Binding Information: Saddle stitched Paperback

Pages: 64

Price: \$6.95

Doors to the Sacred by Joseph Martos published by Image Books.

Paperback: 488 pages

Publisher: Liguori; Rev Upd edition (April 18, 2001)

ISBN-10: 0764807188

ISBN-13: 978-0764807183

Price: \$16.97

Come and See: Leader Edition: A Lectionary-based Christian Initiation Resource Using Catholic Updates

Franciscan Media

Karen Albertus

ISBN 978-1-61636-601-8
Franciscan Media Item: B36601
Price: \$34.99

Recommended Texts

RCIA Ritual Edition

ISBN 978-0-8146-1592-8
Binding Information: Hardcover
Pages: 400
Price: \$39.95

Deacon Frank Iannarino

Deacon Iannarino has been appointed the Director of the Diaconate for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio since 1992. He was ordained by Bishop James A. Griffin in 1989 at Saint Joseph Cathedral and also serves as a Theology teacher and Chaplain at Bishop Watterson High School. He joined Bishop Watterson's faculty as a Theology teacher at in 1977 where he also coached Varsity Golf and Freshmen Baseball until his appointment as Diaconate Director. He is a member of the Administrative Council at the high school and ex-officio on the school board. Deacon Iannarino has been an adjunct professor in theology at Ohio Dominican University and serves on the Continuing Education Committee at The Pontifical College Josephinum and The National Association of Diaconate Directors. He received a B. A. in History from Capital University; an M.A. in Education from The Ohio State University; and a M.A. in Theology from The University of Dayton. Deacon Iannarino has been assigned to diaconal ministry at St. Brigid of Kildare Parish in Dublin, Ohio since his ordination. He and his wife, Peggy, were married in 1979 and live in Dublin. They have three grown children, Katie, Kevin and Kristen.