



RCIA Workshop

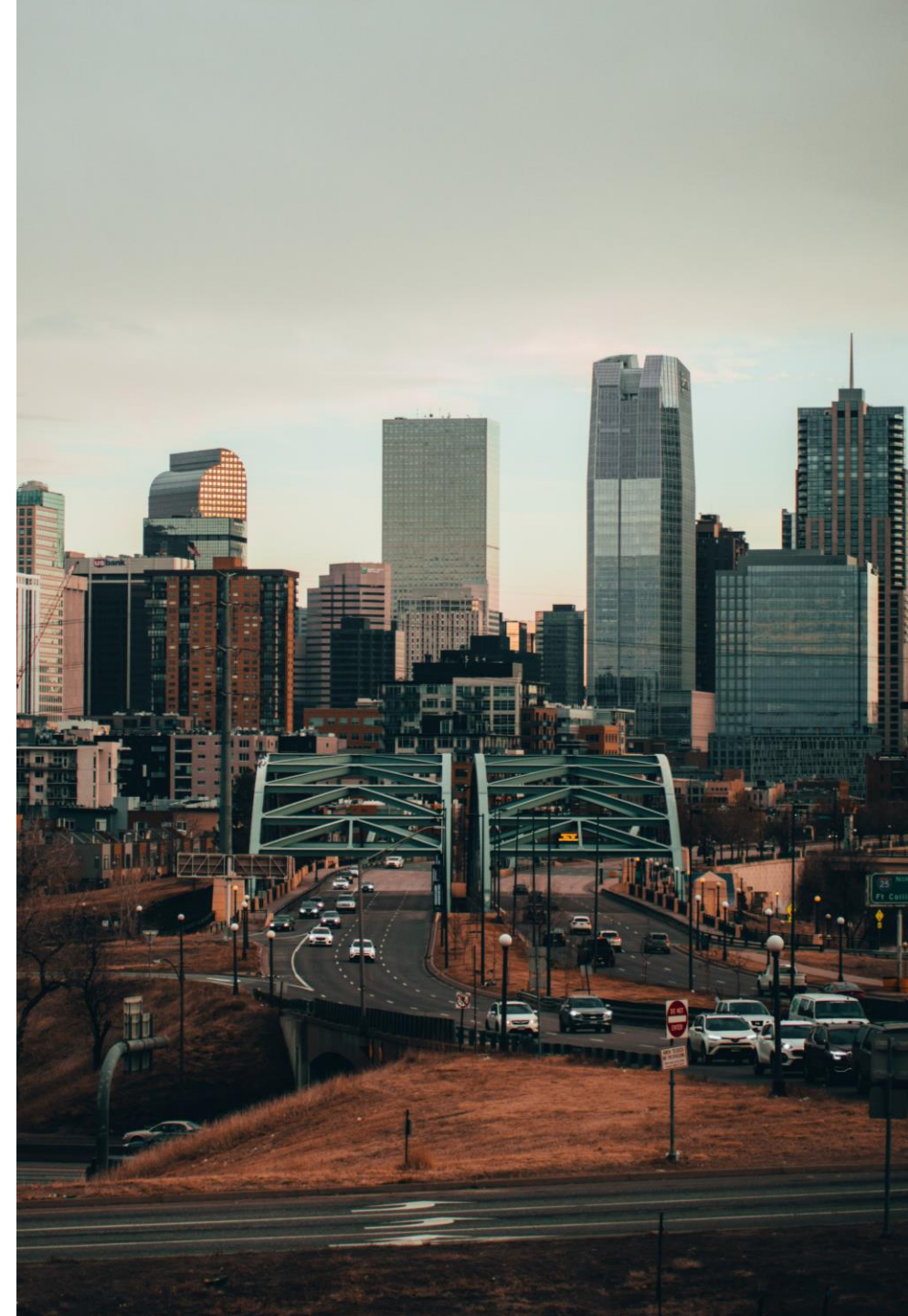
Liturgical Considerations

22 August 2024



Agenda

- Opening prayer
- Updates & Announcements
- Liturgical Considerations
- Break
- Presentation from Canon Lawyer
Steve Hancock
- Lunch & Fellowship



Opening Prayer: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast[b] for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those invited: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.”’ Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.’ The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Archbishop's Letter to the Presbyterate

- OCIA available for purchase November 1
- WORKSHOP led by Liturgy Dept & EFLM on November 12
- Optional use beginning December 1
- Mandatory use beginning March 1 (Ash Wednesday)



Liturgical Considerations: The Rite of Acceptance



The Rite of Acceptance

- Is only for unbaptized catechumens
- Signifies that the seeker has had an initial conversion (intellect, will, emotions) and is ready to enter into the catechumenate
- Can be done as many times as necessary in a year (you can wait for your catechumens to be ready!)

Norm 14 §1. The register of those who have entered the catechumenate is to be kept in the parish archive.

§2. In addition to those things required by OCIA 46, the pastor is to see that the date and place of birth of the catechumens are inscribed in the register.

The Rite of Acceptance (cont.)

- A seeker should *first* undergo the Evangelization Period to ensure that they have had an initial conversion
- A seeker does not "start the catechumenate" until after the Rite of Acceptance
 - No "catechesis classes" & no dismissal from mass
- This rite should be done in the context of a public mass, which also serves as a beautiful witness for the conversion of hearts in the community!

What Can Our Timing Look Like for this Transition?

This Year:

if you have seekers already ready to go (who have had an initial conversion!), aim to have a Rite of Acceptance as soon as possible

- Walk with these catechumens very intentionally until Rite of Election in May 2025
- Bring them into the Church at Easter Vigil 2025

Begin Parish Wide Evangelization Now!

- Walk with these interested seekers this fall/winter until they are at initial conversion
- Plan on having another Rite of Acceptance spring 2025 and run a full year catechumenate for these individuals

Next Year:

For Seekers that Come to you Spring/Summer 2025

- If several seekers come to you in spring/summer with a desire to be walked with, walk with them to initial conversion until fall, where you can have another Rite of Acceptance and do a 1.5 year catechumenate

For Seekers that Come to you Fall 2025

- Walk with them to an initial conversion and bring them in at a Rite of Acceptance in early 2026



Liturgical Considerations: Within the Catechumenate

What is Expected Liturgically of Catechumens?

Norm 8 Upon entry into the catechumenate, catechumens incur the following obligations:

- 1° They are to participate in the Liturgy of the Word, preferably on Sundays and other holy days of obligation, with the community if possible;
- 2° They will continually purify their motivation for Baptism, live an upright life, and be ready to witness to their conversion to Christ, as they seek to grow in their knowledge of and assent to what the Church believes and teaches.

Norm 9 §1. In addition to the prerogatives granted in universal law, catechumens may:

- 1° participate in the apostolic and charitable works of the Church, especially works of mercy;
- 2° take advantage of opportunities given to Catholic parents in the parish or region concerning the enrollment for their children in Catholic schools;
- 3° be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

§2. If it seems appropriate, the diocesan bishop can establish other prerogatives.

Norm 10 It is praiseworthy that catechumens be dismissed from the liturgical assembly, at least on Sundays, after the Homily and before the Creed to reflect on the Word of God just proclaimed.

Norm 11 Because liturgical ministries arise from Christian Baptism, it is inappropriate for catechumens to proclaim the Word of God or serve at the altar during the liturgy.



To Dismiss or Not to Dismiss after the Homily?

Who do we dismiss?

□ only unbaptized catechumens! Baptized candidates have a Sunday obligation to attend the entire mass, even if they cannot receive the Eucharist yet

Why do we dismiss catechumens?

□ they do not have the baptismal role of "priest" so their worship looks different; their role as "catechumen" is to invite deeper reflection and reverence into the Mass throughout the community

When do we start/stop dismissing them?

□ Rite of Acceptance up until the Easter Vigil

Are we expected to do this after every mass?

□ Practically, this would be close to impossible to do at every single mass every weekend! It should be encouraged as much as possible

Break



Ask a Canon Lawyer



Save the Dates for the next RCIA Workshops:

October 10- Discerning Readiness in Seekers

November 12- OCIA New Translation

December 5- Switching to a Year-Round Initiation

February 9- Parish Community Involvement

April 3- Preparing for Holy Week

