



OCIA Workshop

Non-Intellectual Formation

3 April 2025



Agenda

- Opening prayer
- OCIA Implementation Updates
- The Four Areas of Formation (OCIA 75)
- Break
- Pastoral/Spiritual Formation (OCIA 75.2)
- Liturgical Formation (OCIA 75.3)
- Apostolic Formation (OCIA 75.4)
- Lunch & Fellowship



Gospel of the Day: John 5:31-47

Jesus said to the Jews:

"If I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is not true. But there is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that the testimony he gives on my behalf is true. You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth. I do not accept human testimony, but I say this so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. But I have testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on my behalf. But you have never heard his voice nor seen his form, and you do not have his word remaining in you, because you do not believe in the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life.



OCIA Implementation Updates

Archbishop is requesting that any catechumen who enters the catechumenate after January 1, 2026 will experience the one-year catechumenate.

This will also be the date for other requirements for the OCIA process such as:

- Mandatory Rite of Election after age 14 (catechumens)*
- All three scrutinies (catechumens)*
- Other rites and anointings*

All cases that for some reason cannot include these will need a dispensation/permission from Archbishop's office if they start the catechumenate after that date.



What all is required??

Save the date: December 4 @ 9-1 in Bonfils Hall

We will be partnering again with the Liturgy Office on a workshop specifically covering this the month before it goes into effect so that you will know **exactly** what is expected.

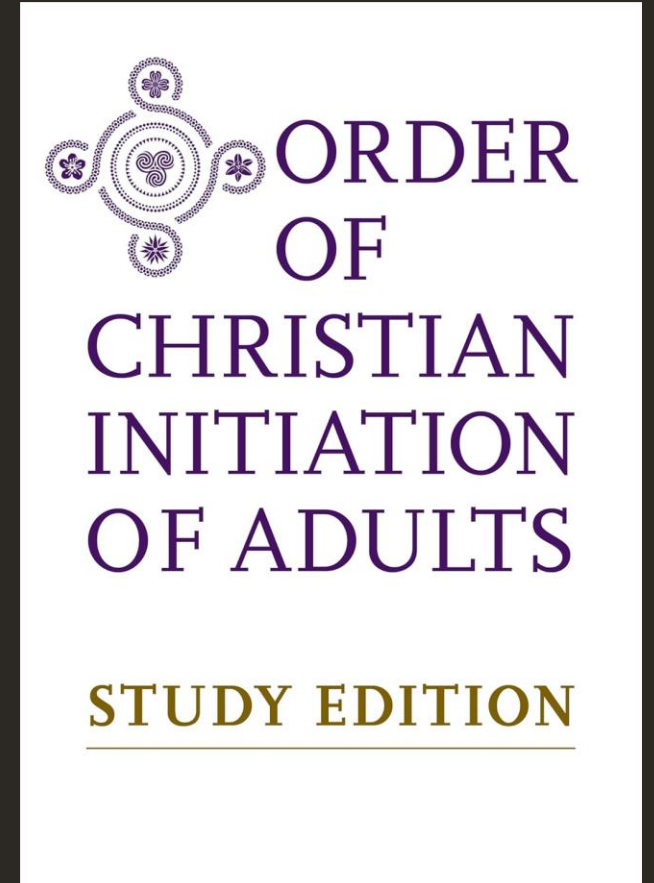
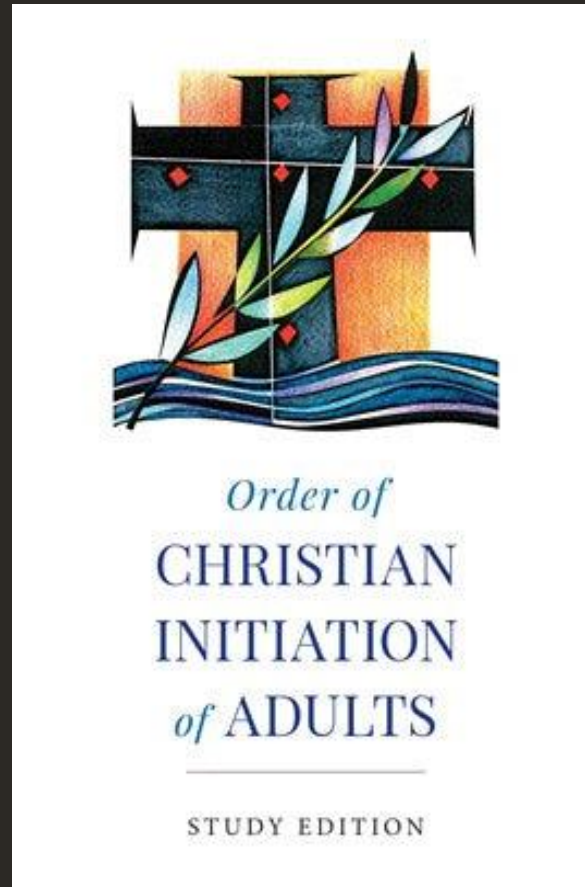


What do we mean by "non-intellectual formation"?

OCIA isn't meant to feel like school

OCIA 75

"The catechumenate is a lengthy period during which catechumens receive pastoral instruction and practice appropriate disciplines; by the help of these their spiritual frame of mind, already manifested by their entrance, is brought to maturity. There are four ways by which this is achieved..."



you need to have this book at your parish, either publication is fine because the content is word-for-word the same!

OCIA 75.1- Doctrinal/intellectual formation

"Appropriate catechesis, given by Priests, Deacons or catechists and other lay people, divided into steps and fully presented, suited to the liturgical year and supported by Celebrations of the Word, leads them not only to a suitable knowledge of dogmas and precepts, but also to an intimate knowledge of the mystery of salvation, which they desire to make their own."



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- suited to the liturgical year
- suitable knowledge of dogmas and precepts
- an intimate knowledge of the mystery of salvation

This is the only component that should be given in a lecture-based format



Break



OCIA 75.2- Pastoral/Spiritual Formation

"Becoming familiar with the practice of Christian life, helped by the example and support of sponsors and godparents, and indeed of the faithful of the entire community, they grow accustomed to praying more easily to God, witnessing to the faith, keeping an expectation of Christ in all things, following inspiration from above in their works, and showing charity to their neighbor even to renunciation of themselves."



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How Do We Present Pastoral/Spiritual Formation?

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See—Try—Do



See—Try—Do

See

- Share what prayer is to you (testify!)
- Normalize what prayer looks like (speaking & listening)
- Pray with them out loud every time you see them

Try

- Ask them to read/say "wrote prayers" out loud
- Start a prayer out loud with them and have them finish

Do

- Invite them to adoration and pray in silence with them
- Ask them to pray with you or to lead the group in prayer

Find a Partner and Let's Pray!

Ask Each Other:

- What does prayer look like for you?
- How do you find it most helpful to pray? Has it changed since you first started praying?
- Where have you seen God moving this Lent?

Pray with one another!

- CCO's guide: Greet God- Share Where You're At- Praise- Scripture- Resolution
- PRAY formula: Praise God- Repent- Ask- Yield (listen)
- My formula: Acknowledge-Thank-Petition-Wrote Prayer

OCIA 75.3- Liturgical Formation

"They are assisted in their journey by Mother Church with suitable liturgical rites and by them they are now gradually cleansed and sustained with divine blessing. It is appropriate to promote Celebrations of the Word for them to attend, and indeed they themselves can already come to the Liturgy of the Word with the faithful to prepare themselves better for their future participation in the Eucharist. However, when they are present with the congregation of the faithful, unless there are difficulties that suggest otherwise: for they ought to wait for Baptism, by which they will be incorporated into the priestly people and deputed to participate in the new worship of Christ."



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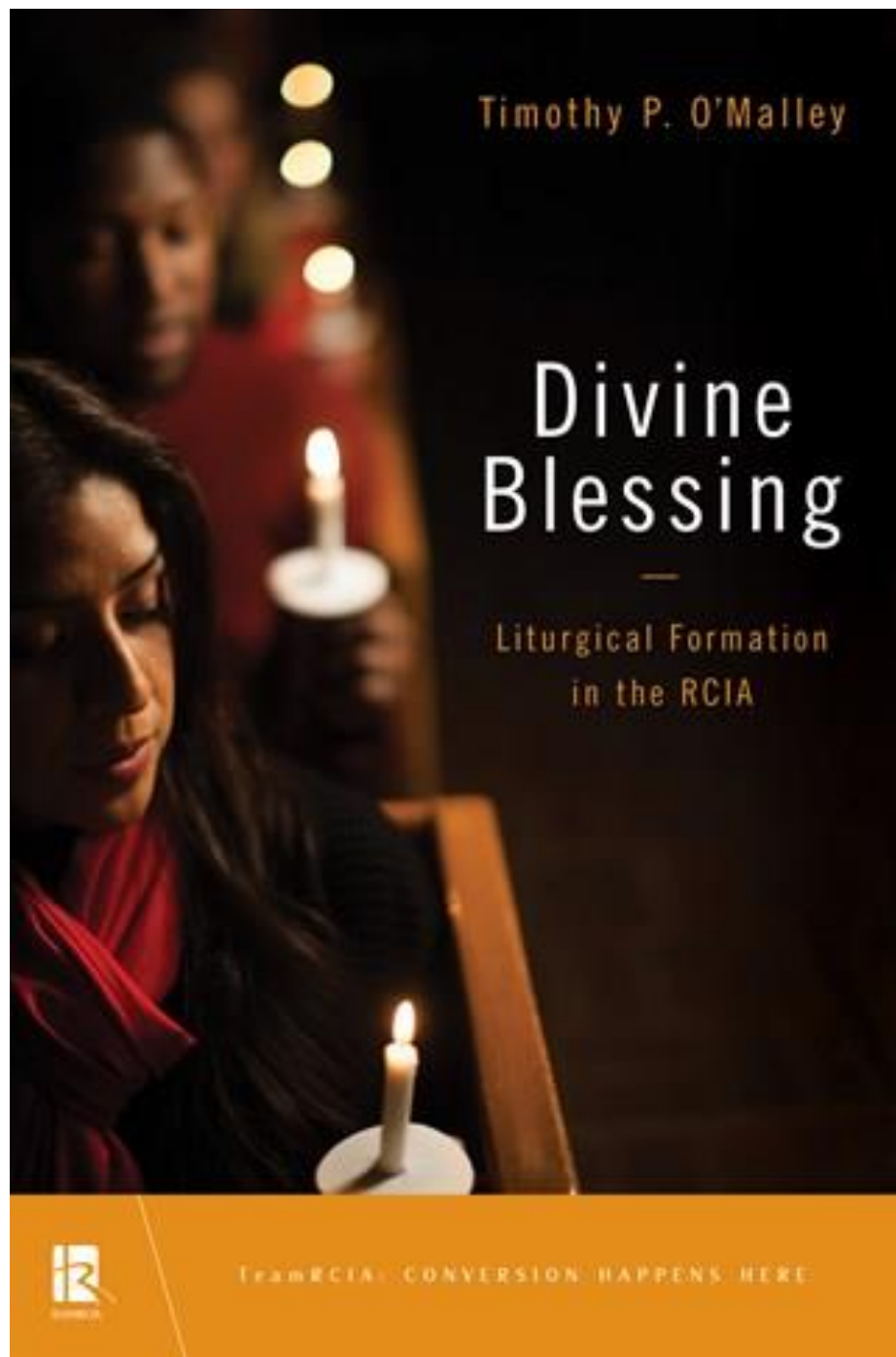


OCIA 75.3- Liturgical Formation

"The end of liturgical formation is living the liturgy. The Christian well-disposed to living liturgically is the one who knows how to pray, who grasps that Christian doctrine is not equivalent to the philosophically teaching of Immanuel Kant. Instead, "knowledge" within Catholicism is intimately related to prayer."

- Tim O'Malley, *Divine Blessing: Liturgical Formation in the OCIA*





Examples of Liturgical Rites & Experiences in OCIA

Within the OCIA Cohort

- Celebrations of the Word (before the catechumenate or within the first weeks of the catechumenate)
- Minor Exorcisms
- Adoration

Within the Context of the Parish

- Adoration
- Sunday Mass
- Ash Wednesday
- Anointing of the Catechumens
- Rite of Entrance
- The Scrutinies

Liturgical Rites & Experiences

- Give a BRIEF explanation before the experience of what is about to happen and what they should pay attention to
- PROVIDE WORSHIP GUIDES, especially if your parish does certain prayers in Latin or there is a response expected of them
- Most importantly, allow them to experience as freely as possible

We will review of required vs optional liturgical rites for OCIA will this December (and what they should look like) particularly around Lent & Easter.

OCIA 75.4- Apostolic Formation

"Since the life of the Church is apostolic, catechumens too should learn to cooperate actively in evangelization and the building up of the Church by the testimony of their life and their profession of faith."



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Evangelization Apprenticeship

Talk Through Their Experiences & Formulate a Testimony:

- What was your friends' & family's reaction to you joining OCIA?
- Why are you becoming Catholic?
- How did God change your life?

Help Them See & Seize Opportunities for Evangelization:

- Sharing the good news when updating others on their life (they are entering the Church and should be proud of that!)
- Inviting others to the rites & sacraments at the parish

Do your sponsors & core team understand evangelization and how to coach someone in sharing their faith?

Sponsor training will be coming regionally this fall, but please talk to our office about resources we can recommend in the meantime!

Coming Up in the Next Few Months:

April 10: Vision Casting in Ministries

May 15: How to Build a Curriculum

August 21: Leveraging Parish Involvement