



# Essential Catechumenal Formation

## Introduction

The following outline of essential formation provides a more in-depth overview of what “pastoral instruction” and “appropriate disciplines” are necessary to prepare an unbaptized adult to receive the sacraments of initiation. The formation is organized into four major sections: Intellectual, Spiritual, Liturgical and Apostolic. On page 2, you will find a simplified overview of the formation topics/areas. The following pages (3 through 14) provide more detailed explanations of what concepts should be included in each topic/area of formation.

This overview is not aiming to provide “teaching outlines” but is more akin to “learning objectives” when compared to analogous education documents. Each local OCIA program has the freedom to select their preferred programs, resources, or teaching materials which would assist them in forming catechumens in all the included topics. Though this overview provides a list of what is essential and required for catechumenal formation, it does not prevent parishes from adding additional sessions or topics of formation in addition to what is listed here.

The catechumenate is intended to be experienced as an “apprenticeship” in the Christian life (OCIA #76). As a result, formation areas such as “spiritual formation” and “apostolic formation” should be “hands on” and “practical” not academic or lecture based. Though this document focuses exclusively on “what” essential formation belongs in the catechumenate, ample thought must be given to “how” this formation is provided to ensure it is experienced as an apprenticeship and not solely a lecture based academic exercise.

The structure of this outline is not necessarily meant to imply a chronological order of when certain formation should be provided. Formation topics should be integrated to allow catechumens to grow in all four areas throughout the entire catechumenate. This is especially true for spiritual and liturgical formation.

The Office of Evangelization and Family Life Ministries is ready and available to assist your OCIA ministry in many ways, including: sharing recommended resources, providing suggested “schedules” for how to organize this formation, providing sponsor training, etc.

# Essential Catechumenal Formation

## Areas of Formation

### Intellectual Formation (3-8)

#### The Creed

- Creation
- God's Pursuit of Humanity
- The Trinity
- The Father
- Who is Jesus Christ
- The Paschal Mystery
- The Holy Spirit
- The Blessed Virgin Mary
- The Church
- The Final Judgment
- The Saints & Angels

#### The Sacraments

- What is Grace?
- What is a Sacrament?
- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- What is the Mass?
- Marriage
- Holy Orders
- Penance/Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick

#### Moral Teaching & Addressing the Secular Worldview

- The Ten Commandments & The Beatitudes
- Personal Conscience
- Human Freedom
- Dignity of the Human Person
- Human Sexuality
- Navigating Spiritual Realities
- Catholic Social Teaching

### Spiritual Formation (9-11)

- What is Prayer and How to Pray
- How to Pray with the Bible
- How to Hear God's Voice
- What is Faith?
- Rote Prayers Every Catholic Should Know
- Discernment
- The Holy Spirit
- Communal Prayer
- Basic Instruction on the Intercession of the Saints
- The Universal Call to Holiness
- Overcoming Difficulties/The Battle of Prayer
- How to "Pray the Mass"
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Introduction to Popular Devotions
- Introduction to Fasting
- Introduction to Forgiveness
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

### Liturgical Formation (12-13)

- Church Tour and Explanation (Clergy-led)
- Explanation and experience of the Church's liturgical seasons
- Celebrations of the Word
- Suitable liturgical rites
- Exposure to the Liturgy of the Word within the context of the Sunday Mass
- Liturgical Anthropology
- Explanation of the meaning, structure, and script of the Rite of Election

### Apostolic Formation (14)

- The Universal Call to Mission
- Witnessing to the Faith in Words
- Witnessing to the Faith in Deeds
- How to Respond to Opposition & Persecution
- Joint Partnership in the Kingdom ("Stewardship")

# Intellectual Formation: The Creed

The purpose of doctrinal catechesis is to train and apprentice catechumens in the Christian way of life. Just as perfect faith and maturity are not required for baptism (see CCC 1253), perfect doctrinal understanding is not required for the reception of the sacraments of initiation or for catechumens to become disciples of Christ. Doctrinal catechesis during the Catechumenate is meant to be initial and gradually develop throughout the catechumen's life as a Catholic. The goal is to impart to each catechumen a beginning understanding of the faith for the purpose of a life of discipleship, not to make of them amateur theologians.

topic	
<b>Creation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» We are created in the image and likeness of God.</li><li>» The creation narrative and the account of the Fall; the reality of fallen angels/evil spirits.</li><li>» Revisit the first two points of the kerygma:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God created us out of love for a personal relationship with Him.</li><li>• This relationship was broken through Original Sin, and is continuously harmed through our sins today.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>God's Pursuit of Humanity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» God has constantly been pursuing communion with humanity.</li><li>» Briefly go over the stories of Noah, Abraham, Moses (before and after freedom from Egyptian captivity), David, and Solomon with the intention of highlighting God's pursuit of man.</li><li>» The Bible is divine revelation &amp; divinely inspired by God.</li></ul>
<b>The Trinity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Introduction of God as one nature, three persons.</li><li>» General explanation of the Son proceeding from the Father and the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.</li><li>» Clarification that God is not in different "modes" or "parts" but exists fully in all three persons.</li></ul>
<b>The Father</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Understanding God as Father revealed truly by Jesus.</li><li>» Understanding God as Creator.</li><li>» Connecting the Old and New Testament portrayals in Scripture.</li></ul>
<b>Who is Jesus Christ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Jesus is fully God and fully man.</li><li>» An introduction to the life of Jesus as recounted by the Gospels.</li><li>» Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfillment of OT prophecy.</li></ul>

# Intellectual Formation: The Creed

topic	
<b>The Paschal Mystery</b>	<p>» Revisit the third point of the kerygma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By his cross, Jesus restores the relationship between humanity and God, rescuing us from slavery to sin, death, and the evil one.</li> </ul> <p>» The crucifixion, death, resurrection, and ascension narratives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened and the importance of why it matters today.</li> </ul>
<b>The Holy Spirit</b>	<p>» Understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as an advocate.</p> <p>» Understanding the meaning of Pentecost Sunday.</p>
<b>The Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	<p>» Introduction to the person of Mary and her role in the plan of salvation.</p> <p>» Mary as our Mother, the gift of Jesus from the cross (Jn 19).</p> <p>» A brief explanation of the four Marian Dogmas held by the Church and why they matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief discussion on why the Church has deemed them “required belief”.</li> </ul>
<b>The Church (One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic)</b>	<p>» The need for a hierarchical Church.</p> <p>» Apostolic succession.</p> <p>» The Church as “the body of Christ”.</p> <p>» Introduction to the five precepts of the Church and their importance.</p>
<b>The Final Judgement</b>	<p>» Brief explanation of the difference between heaven, hell, and purgatory.</p> <p>» Emphasis on how holiness gets us to heaven.</p> <p>» Explanation of the resurrection of the body.</p>
<b>The Saints &amp; Angels</b>	<p>» Explanation of the meaning of “sainthood” and intercession (communion of saints).</p> <p>» An exploration of a few different saint stories.</p> <p>» Guardian angels and the role of angels in general.</p> <p>» A brief discussion on the reality of the spiritual realm including Satan and the demons.</p>

# Intellectual Formation: The Sacraments

topic	
<b>What is Grace?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Simple definition of grace.</li> <li>» Examples of how to receive grace.</li> <li>» The role of our disposition in receiving grace.</li> <li>» What does it mean to be in a “state of grace”?</li> </ul>
<b>What is a Sacrament?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Definition of a sacrament, introduction to the concept of “sacramental worldview”.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are created for communion with God who is love and the sacraments bring us into the restored relationship offered to us through Christ (connection to the kerygma).</li> </ul> </li> <li>» Difference between a covenant and a contract.</li> <li>» The sacraments and the paschal mystery; connection between Christ’s life and the liturgy.</li> <li>» The effect of the sacraments and the grace they impart.</li> <li>» What is a valid sacrament? Basic overview of matter/form.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the matter/form for each sacrament as they are discussed.</li> <li>• Brief introduction to the three “categories” of sacraments: initiation, healing, and service/mission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Baptism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Explanation of its connection with the life of Christ.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of the sacrament.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Taking away original sin, personal sin, and all its punishment.</li> <li>◦ Adoption into God’s family.                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>▪ Infusion of the theological virtues (what they are and “what they do”).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>» Jesus as Priest, Prophet, and King; in receiving the sacraments of initiation (especially baptism) we are given a share in these “offices” of Jesus.</li> </ul>
<b>Confirmation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Explanation of its connection to the life of Christ.</li> <li>» Effects of the sacrament.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deepening of baptismal graces and a special outpouring of Holy Spirit.</li> <li>• Gifts of the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>• Special strength to witness to the Christian faith.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» Why the practice of choosing a patron saint?</li> <li>» Lifelong prayer to the Holy Spirit.</li> </ul>

# Intellectual Formation: The Sacraments

topic	
<b>Eucharist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Explanation of its connection to the life of Christ.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of the sacrament.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increased union with Christ and his Church.</li> <li>◦ Preserves and renews life of grace.</li> <li>◦ Strengthens charity, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>» How to properly receive the sacrament (both physical posture and spiritual disposition).</li> </ul>
<b>What is the Mass?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Connection between the Mass, the Last Supper, and the Passover.</li> <li>» Basic overview of the parts of the mass and “what to do” during the mass (mechanics of active participation.)</li> <li>» The Mass is a sacrifice and a covenantal meal; it is worship of the Father.</li> </ul>
<b>Marriage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Explanation of the difference between a “secular” view of marriage and a sacramental view of marriage.</li> <li>» Marriage is ordered towards both procreation/education of children and unity of spouses.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procreation is a gift from God, given as a blessing before the Fall.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» Introduction into the four marks of married love: free, total, faithful, fruitful and their connection to Jesus’ love for the Church.</li> </ul>
<b>Holy Orders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Basic introduction to priesthood (i.e.: instituted by Jesus, act “in persona Christi capitis”, etc).</li> <li>» What is a bishop? Their practical/spiritual role. Local/visible link to apostolic succession.</li> <li>» Introduction to the diaconate; modeled after “Christ the servant”.</li> </ul>
<b>Penance/Reconciliation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sin and its consequences.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mortal vs venial sin.</li> <li>• God’s infinite love and mercy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» What is confession?</li> <li>» Effect of the sacrament.</li> <li>» How to properly receive the sacrament (both the mechanics and spiritual disposition.)</li> </ul>
<b>Anointing of the Sick</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» What is the anointing of the sick?</li> <li>» Effect of the Sacrament.</li> <li>» When the sacrament should be received.</li> </ul>

# Intellectual Formation: Moral Teaching & Addressing the Secular Worldview

In addition to the classic topics discussed in conjunction with the “moral life,” certain topics must be addressed to combat the colluded and skewed worldview of the secular 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is necessary to accompany the catechumen through the process of “renewing their mind” (Rom 12:2).

topic	
<b>The Ten Commandments &amp; The Beatitudes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Introduction to the Ten Commandments and beatitudes.</li> <li>» Explanation of how to apply the commandments and beatitudes to everyday life (ie: Thou shall not kill also applies to sins of anger, not just actual murder).</li> <li>» Law of love / Two greatest commandments.</li> <li>» A life of beatitudes above commandments; Jesus’ “new law” (Sermon on the Mount) is not a replacement but an elevation of how we are to act.</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Conscience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» What is conscience?</li> <li>» Introduction to Natural Law (God communicates the basic moral law to every person).</li> <li>» Our conscience needs to be formed.</li> <li>» Address relativism (especially moral relativism).</li> <li>» Address the pitfall of scrupulosity.</li> </ul>
<b>Human Freedom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» What is true freedom? (free “for” the good, not free “from” restraint).</li> <li>» Introduce the concepts of habit, vice, virtue.</li> <li>» Connection to the commandments and beatitudes (ie: the giving of the law is a gift that leads us to true freedom).</li> <li>» Jesus leads us to true inner freedom through our life of discipleship (inner healing).</li> </ul>
<b>Dignity of the Human Person</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Introduction to Catholic Anthropology.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity is received, not manufactured.</li> <li>• What is man (body/soul composite).</li> <li>• include a specific connection to life issues.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» Church teaching on euthanasia and abortion.</li> </ul>

# Intellectual Formation: Moral Teaching & Addressing the Secular Worldview

topic	
<b>Human Sexuality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Introduction to Church's teaching on what it means to be male or female; Complementarity of man/woman as revealed in Genesis and confirmed by Jesus in the Gospels, "...from the beginning" (Mt 19:8).</li> <li>» The meaning and purpose of sex; draw a connection between marital love and the love of Jesus for the Church (Eph 5); free, total, faithful, fruitful.</li> <li>» Church teaching on contraception, IVF, and surrogacy.</li> <li>» Explanation of gender ideology through a Catholic lens.</li> </ul>
<b>Navigating Spiritual Realities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The reality of the spiritual realm &amp; basic discernment of spirits.</li> <li>» The ongoing battle for souls—how will I experience the spiritual battle?</li> <li>» The Church's teaching on the occult.</li> <li>» Superstition vs faith.</li> <li>» Spiritual warfare- who forms our heart? The world/secularism or Jesus/the Word of God?</li> </ul>
<b>Catholic Social Teaching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Political involvement as a Catholic.</li> <li>» Basic introduction to the Social Doctrine of the Church.</li> </ul>



# Spiritual Formation

It is important to understand that spiritual/pastoral formation is not intended to be primarily intellectual. Any catechetical instruction or teaching should be done with the intention of aiding catechumens in deepening their spiritual life and relationship with the Trinity in a concrete way. Therefore, the following topics of formation should be transmitted in a spirit of “apprenticeship,” helping catechumens develop their spiritual life as they mature as disciples of Christ. It is possible, even preferable, that a significant portion of this formation should happen outside the context of a formal catechetical session and through the help of a sponsor.

topic	
<b>What is Prayer &amp; How to Pray</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Prayer is “communion with God”, “dialogue”, prayer of the heart, etc.</li> <li>» Exposure to different ways of praying, such as imaginative prayer, lectio or visio divina, vocal prayer, praise and worship, etc.</li> <li>» Jesus teaches us to pray – the Our Father.</li> </ul>
<b>How to Pray with the Bible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Basic instruction on how to find chapter/verse, where to find the Gospels, etc.</li> <li>» Explanation that the Church offers many resources to help us learn more about the context and content of the bible.</li> <li>» Praying with scripture is a foundational spiritual practice, assist them in building the habit.</li> </ul>
<b>How to Hear God’s Voice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Share God’s desire to speak and commune with us, as well as how to hear God’s voice in prayer through reading of Scripture, the use of the imagination, attentiveness to one’s thoughts/feelings/desires, etc.</li> <li>» How to respond God’s promptings and grace in a concrete way.</li> </ul>
<b>What is Faith?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» A gift from God and a theological virtue.</li> <li>» What does it mean to grow in faith? --increases with our participation.</li> <li>» Share personal &amp; biblical examples of faith.</li> </ul>
<b>Rote Prayers Every Catholic Should Know</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Our Father</li> <li>» Hail Mary</li> <li>» Creeds</li> <li>» Act of Contrition</li> <li>» etc.</li> </ul>

# Spiritual Formation

topic	
<b>Discernment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» What to discern; what is not necessary to discern (ie: paying taxes).</li> <li>» Discernment of major decisions.</li> </ul>
<b>The Holy Spirit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Basic instruction on the importance of being attentive to God's presence within us and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as wisdom, knowledge, understanding, etc.</li> <li>» Introduction to "charisms" and the reality that the Holy Spirit gives each of us unique gifts.</li> <li>» How to pray to the Holy Spirit.</li> </ul>
<b>Communal Prayer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Since we are "one body" in Christ, prayer is not only an individual activity.</li> <li>» Opportunities to experience 1-1 or small group intercessory prayer with and for one another.</li> <li>» Opportunities to experience communal prayer of thanksgiving, adoration, petition, etc.</li> <li>» Brief explanation and exposure to the liturgy of the hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Basic Instruction on the Intercession of the Saints</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Basic instruction on the Intercession of the Saints.</li> </ul>
<b>The Universal Call to Holiness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Why we pray.</li> <li>» Explanation of Christ's role as servant and our invitation to imitate him.</li> <li>» Though all of us share the "universal" call to holiness and mission, Christ invites each of us to a "specific" mission – our "vocation".</li> <li>» Consecrated life is a particular way of life and service in the Church &amp; witness to the world.</li> </ul>
<b>Overcoming Difficulties/The Battle of Prayer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Prayer as a battle, overcoming distractions &amp; dryness.</li> <li>» Struggle of prayer—there can be pushback from the enemy or simple distraction, prayer life has ebbs and flows—touch on consolation and desolation.</li> </ul>

# Spiritual Formation

topic	
<b>How to “Pray the Mass”</b>	<p>» Basic instruction on the different parts of the Mass as well as how to develop the proper disposition to enter and experience them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Liturgy of the Word and the importance of attentiveness in listening.</li> <li>• The Liturgy of the Eucharist and its connection to praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.</li> </ul> <p>» Basic teaching and opportunities for personal or small group reflection on the various prayers of the Mass, such as the Confiteor, the Lamb of God, the Our Father, etc.</p>
<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	<p>» Experience communal benediction and personal prayer time.</p>
<b>Introduction to Popular Devotions</b>	<p>» Basic explanation and brief exposure to popular devotions, such as the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, novenas, pilgrimages, relics, etc.</p>
<b>Introduction to Fasting</b>	<p>» Brief instruction on what fasting is and its purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fasting as a precept of the Church.</li> </ul> <p>» Exposure to the simple practice of fasting within the proper liturgical season, such as ember days during Advent or abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, etc.</p>
<b>Introduction to Forgiveness</b>	<p>» Brief explanation of what forgiveness is and the practice of it as an essential virtue in the Christian way of life and in God’s kingdom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Our Father petition: “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”.</li> </ul> <p>» The importance of giving and receiving forgiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its connection to healing (spiritual, emotional, and physical).</li> <li>• The “embodiment” of God’s mercy and love in us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Forgiveness as a spiritual work of mercy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy</b>	<p>» Brief explanation and exposure to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, instructing the ignorant, comforting the afflicted, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> precept of the Church.</li> </ul> <p>» Opportunities for building a habit of putting the works of mercy into practice in their own life.</p>

# Liturgical Formation

“The Church’s faith precedes the faith of the believer who is invited to adhere to it. When the Church celebrates the sacraments, she confesses the faith received from the apostles ... The law of prayer is the law of faith: the Church believes as she prays. Liturgy is a constitutive element of the holy and living Tradition” CCC1124. The purpose of liturgical catechesis is not simply to impart the mechanics and definitions associated with participation in the Church’s ritual life of prayer. Through experiencing the parts of the Church’s liturgy that are available to them during the catechumenate, the catechumen’s faith is “formed” through the example and model of the Church as presented in her liturgies. Though it is necessary to instruct the catechumen regarding the basics of the liturgies they will experience (most especially the rites associated with the catechumenate), this “catechesis” should focus primarily on experience and encounter with the Church’s liturgy, not on academic instruction around its concepts.

topic	
<b>Church Tour and Explanation</b>	» a clergy-led tour of the Church and explanation.
<b>Explanation and Experience of the Church’s Liturgical Seasons as they happen during the year</b>	<p>» Basic instruction on how the liturgical calendar follows the life of Christ and invites us to enter the mystery of Christ each year.</p> <p>» Basic instruction on the meaning of each liturgical season and its connection to the life of Christ.</p> <p>» Opportunities with the broader parish community during each liturgical season that allow the catechumen to “see” and “experience” the liturgical year.</p>
<b>Celebrations of the Word</b>	<p>» “Special Celebrations of the Word of God should be arranged for the benefit of the catechumens and their main purpose should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to implant in their hearts the teachings they are receiving...</li> <li>• to give them instruction and experience in the different aspects and ways of prayer.</li> <li>• to explain to them the signs, actions, and seasons of the liturgy.</li> <li>• to lead them gradually into the worship of the entire community.” OCIA #82</li> </ul>
<b>Suitable Liturgical Rites</b>	<p>» Though optional, these minor rites provide for the deepening liturgical and spiritual formation of the catechumens throughout their time in the catechumenate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor Exorcisms (OCIA #90-93), Blessings (OCIA #95-96), Anointing (OCIA #98-101)</li> </ul>

# Liturgical Formation

topic	
<b>Exposure to the Liturgy of the Word within the context of Sunday Mass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Fostering the habit of attending Sunday Mass.</li> <li>» Exposure to the Liturgy of the Word and the Sunday Mass.</li> <li>» Dismissal after the Liturgy of the Word (unless obstacles prevent this - OCIA #67) to continue to deepen the desire for baptism and the privileges it imparts (notably, communal participation in Eucharistic communion and the priestly role of the baptized.)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Dismissal until they have been ”incorporated into the priestly people and deputed to participate in the new worship of Christ” (OCIA 75).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Liturgical Anthropology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Explain that liturgy engages us as a whole person (mind, body, soul).</li> <li>» How the liturgy engages the five senses.</li> <li>» Invitation to the unique liturgical life of the parish (patron feasts, stations of the cross, etc).</li> </ul>
<b>Explanation of the Meaning, Structure, and Script of the Rite of Election</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Explanation of the Meaning, Structure, and Script of the Rite of Election before the catechumens participate in it.</li> </ul>

# Apostolic Formation

topic	
<b>The Universal Call to Mission</b>	<p>» Every Catholic is called to play a part in the mission of the Church. God has a unique plan for every human being only they can fulfill.</p> <p>» Each of us is called to bear witness to Christ.</p> <p>» Our witness to Christ happens through our “words and deeds.” (Evangelii Nuntiandi #21-22)</p>
<b>Witnessing to the Faith in Words</b>	<p>» How to engage in spiritual conversations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Witnessing in words does not mean “preaching at” or “arguing with” others.</li> <li>• Witnessing to our faith effectively through words requires us to engage in fruitful, open-ended spiritual conversations with others.</li> <li>• “How to” initiate and participate in spiritual conversations with others.</li> </ul> <p>» How to share their testimony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “what” of what we are sharing through our words with others should begin with the “testimony” of our encounter with Jesus and the difference our faith has made in our lives.</li> <li>• “How to” share my experience of Jesus in a clear, engaging, and fruitful way.</li> </ul>
<b>Witnessing to the Faith in Deeds</b>	<p>» The “witness of how I live my life” is a necessary and powerful way to participate in the Church’s evangelization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Things like – offering forgiveness, patience when experiencing opposition, joyful when experiencing suffering, intentionally looking for ways to serve those in need, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>How to Respond to Opposition &amp; Persecution</b>	<p>» What does it mean to live as a disciple.</p> <p>» Expect to experience persecution. “Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.” (Mt 5:11)</p> <p>» Tools or best practices of how to endure it.</p>
<b>Joint Partnership in the Kingdom (“Stewardship”)</b>	<p>» How do we manage the gifts that God has given to us.</p> <p>» We are part of the body of Christ; participation in the church is not a “transactional” reality.</p>