



Discernment Interview Prior to the Rite of Election or the Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion

Interviewer: Before beginning, read RCIA 120 and the questions that are asked of the catechumens and candidates during the Rite of Sending (RCIA 537-542) and the Rites of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion (RCIA 551-557). This meeting should be preceded by a discussion with any members of the RCIA community (clergy, team members, godparents, sponsors, etc.) who have assisted in the formation of the individual regarding the person's readiness to take this step.

Use the following questions as a guide for a conversation with the catechumen or candidate. As you talk, let him or her know how you have seen God at work in his or her life during the initiation process. Be sure to explain that, while some individuals may be ready to celebrate the sacraments at this time, others may not, and that if someone needs more time to learn about and decide to live the Catholic way of life, that is fine. If the individual is interested in celebrating these Rites, and you or others with whom you have spoken have concerns about his or her readiness, explain your concerns and say that it might be in the person's best interest to delay celebrating the sacraments for a period of time. At the conclusion of your conversation, unless you or the catechumen/candidate needs more time to come to a decision, let the person know whether or not he or she will participate in the Rite of Sending and Rite of Election or the Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion. Notes on the conversation should be taken as needed.

Name: _____

Catechumen Candidate for full communion Candidate for completion of initiation

Godparent(s)/Sponsor(s): _____

- 1) What has been your experience during the initiation process? What has affected you the most? What have you enjoyed the most? What has challenged you the most?
- 2) How has your life changed in the time that you have been in the catechumenal process?
- 3) What changes have occurred in your relationship with God or with your family or friends during this time?
- 4) How has your relationship with your godparent/sponsor been working out?
- 5) Tell me about some of the people in the parish whom you have come to know or experiences in the parish you have had during the initiation process.
- 6) How comfortable are you reading the Scriptures?
- 7) Tell me about how you pray.
- 8) How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ?
- 9) Do you find yourself relating to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints?
- 10) Do you understand what it means to be faithful to the teachings and magisterium of the Church?
- 11) Do you feel that you have a good grasp of the teachings of the Church? Do you have questions about any of them? What areas do you wish to learn more about?
- 12) Do you understand what becoming a member of the Catholic Church entails? How would you describe what being a Catholic/living a Catholic life means?
- 13) To what degree do you see yourself turning away from sin and developing a desire for virtue?
- 14) How do you understand the call to holiness? What does it mean to you that a Catholic is called to live a life of charity?
- 15) Do you desire the sacraments? Specifically the Eucharist?

Explain to the initiate what will take place at the Rite of Sending (RCIA 537-542) and the Rite of Election or the Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion (RCIA 551-557), then ask:

- 16) Do you understand what is being asked of you in these Rites? Are you prepared to take this step?
- 17) Do you wish to be baptized/be received into full communion/complete the sacraments of initiation?