

Diocese of Rockville Centre  
Office of Worship  
Rite of Christian Initiation

Pre-Initiation Inventory for  
Children,  
with Worksheet  
Revised

*Use this form for*  
Unbaptized Children of Catechetical Age  
*prior to celebrating*  
Rite of Acceptance into the Order of  
Catechumens

*or*

Children Baptized in Other Churches  
*prior to celebrating*  
Rite of Welcome

Name of Child\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Interviewer\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview\_\_\_\_\_

*Pastoral Notes*

*Please use this form:*

- *When the child is of catechetical age (usually 7 years of age and older)*
- *When parents or custodians seek to have their unbaptized child welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church.*
- *When parents or custodians seek to have their child who was baptized in another church welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church.*

<b>Step One: Record the Basic Information</b>
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Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*(including maiden name)*

Mother's Religion/Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Religion/Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

The child resides with:

both parents      the Mother      the Father

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Pastoral Notes:***

*It is important to be sure of the following:*

- *Is the child adopted? If Yes, see note A on the back of this form.*
- *If the parents of the child are separated or divorced, the parent who brings the child for initiation into the church must have legal custody of the child.*
- *If someone other than a parent brings the child to the church (e.g., a foster parent, a grandparent, etc.) they must provide written permission signifying the consent of the parents.*
- *In the case of a child who is himself / herself requesting initiation into the church, the right of the child is to be respected even if there is little or no parental support; in this case the role of suitable godparents is most critical.*

**Step Two: Determine the Status of the Child.**

**IS THE CHILD BAPTIZED?**

Yes    If yes, go to the next page ⇒ ⇒

No     If no, continue below ↓ ↓ ↓

*This child will then be admitted as a **Catechumen** through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (RCIA ¶260-276)*

When it is determined, write the date of the celebration of the Rite of Acceptance here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Immediately after the celebration of this rite, all information is to be entered into the parish Register of Catechumens.*

Godparent(s) / Sponsor(s) at the Rite of Acceptance:

*The Godparents must be at least 16 years of age, already confirmed and faithfully living the Catholic Faith.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pastoral Notes**

- *The process of initiation “is to be extended over several years” before children receive the sacraments (RCIA ¶253). Their formation may also take place “with a group of children of the same age who are already baptized and are preparing for confirmation and eucharist; their initiation progresses gradually and within the supportive setting of this group of companions...The period of initiation will also provide a good opportunity for the family to have contact with priests and catechists.” (RCIA ¶254)*
- *In the year that this child is to be baptized, confirmed and admitted to communion, the child celebrates the Rite of Election with the bishop and the rest of the Elect. During Lent of that year, the child experiences the scrutinies. The child is then baptized, confirmed and receives Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Confirmation and Eucharist may never be separated from the celebration of Baptism. (National Statutes ¶19)*

Name of Godparent(s) at Baptism (if different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pastoral Notes**

- *The child experiences the celebration of Mystagogia during the Easter Season of his/her initiation.*
- *Be sure the sacramental information is recorded in the Baptism, Confirmation and Communion registers.*

**IF THE CHILD IS ALREADY BAPTIZED,** consult B on page 5. Then list the following information:

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination of the Church of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Minister of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Godparent(s) at the time of baptism:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Was this child confirmed in another church?

Yes     No

In the case of prior confirmation, consult C on page 6.

*This child will then be admitted as a **Candidate** through the Rite of Welcome (RCIA ¶416-432)*

When it is determined, write the date of the Rite of Welcome here

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age, already confirmed and faithfully living the Catholic Faith.*

***Pastoral Notes***

- *If it is determined that the child is catechized, and is coming into the Catholic Church with his/her family, after an appropriate catechesis the family may be received into the church at any Sunday Eucharist. The Rite of Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church is celebrated, with Confirmation and First Communion. Religious formation continues with his/her peers.*
- *If it is determined that the child is uncatechized, the child then undergoes a period of formation. This includes participation in a religious formation program with his/her peers, which may include Sunday dismissal catechesis. In the year that this child is to be confirmed and admitted to communion, the child celebrates the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion with the bishop and the rest of the Elect. He/She celebrates the appropriate Lenten Rites. At the Easter Vigil the child makes a profession of faith, is received into the church, is confirmed and is admitted to the Eucharist.*
- *Be sure that the sacramental information is recorded in:  
The Register of Reception into Full Communion,*

Since children who have reached the use of reason are considered, for purposes of Christian initiation, to be adults (canon 852.1), their formation should follow the general pattern of the ordinary catechuminate as far as possible. They should receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist at the Easter Vigil, together with the older catechumens.

### **A. Adopted Children**

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When adopting parents seek to have their adopted children baptized, there are two possibilities:

1. First case: The adoption is not finalized by the court. In this case: obtain permission from the Chancellor's office. Submit a copy of the birth certificate and statement of the adoption agency that they are aware of the baptism along with a cover letter requesting baptism. Once permission is granted, proceed with the baptism. No certificate is issued until permitted by the Chancellor's Office. This will occur when the court issues its Order of Adoption and a copy is submitted to the chancellor's office. Please follow instructions of the Chancellor's Office.

2. Second case: The final court order of adoption has been issued. Write and obtain permission from the Chancellor's Office. Follow the instructions in the letter which will follow. In all cases, it is important that the civil record match the church record.

For more complete information, consult the **Pastoral Manual**, or call the Chancery.

### **B. Prior Baptism**

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1. Obtain a baptismal certificate or sworn affidavit.

2. a. Orthodox (Greek, Russian, Coptic, Ukrainian, Armenian, etc.): Are to be received into full communion in the corresponding Eastern rite. Please consult the Chancery.

b. Episcopalian, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian: If the fact of baptism is certain, the baptism is presumed to be valid. Re-baptism, even conditional, is not permitted. When received into the Catholic Church, they are to be confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist.

c. The validity of other baptisms, apart from those listed above, is not accepted without question. For example, in the case of Baptist baptism it must be shown that baptism was administered in the name of the Trinity, and also that true baptism took place, and not just "dedication."

3. Those baptized in a non-Catholic ecclesial community are not be baptized conditionally unless, after an examination of the matter and the form of words used in the conferral of baptism, and after a

consideration of the intention of the parents of the child and of the minister of the baptism, a serious reason for doubting the validity of the baptism is present. When there is a reasonable and prudent doubt concerning the baptism of such Christians which cannot be resolved after serious investigation into the fact and/or validity of baptism, namely,

- to ascertain whether the person was baptized with water and with the Trinitarian formula,
- and whether the minister and the recipient of the sacrament had the proper requisite intention,

and if conditional baptism seems necessary, this *must be celebrated privately* rather than at a public liturgical assembly of the community. Reception into Full Communion and Confirmation should take place later at the Sunday Eucharist of the community or at the Easter Vigil. The minister of Reception into Full Communion and Confirmation should be the same as the minister of conditional baptism.

### **C. Prior Confirmation**

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The validity of Confirmation in other Christian churches is not recognized (unless the person has been confirmed in an Orthodox church --in this case consult the chancery.) Upon reception into the Catholic Church, the child is to be confirmed prior to receiving communion.

<b>Need more information?</b>
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More complete information can be found in

- **Pastoral Manual**
- **Pastoral Manual Guide**

which are available in every parish.

### **On the phone:**

If you have any difficulties or further questions, please call:

Sr. Sheila Browne, RSM  
Coordinator for the Catechumenate, Office of Worship  
678-5800, ext. 231

- or -

The Office of the Chancellor  
678-5800, ext. 583