

How to strengthen your RCIA process to be the best your parish has ever offered and how CI can help with that.

- 1. How to reach out effectively in the community to find and call souls towards the Father's saving embrace in the Church?**
 - Simple *personal invitation*, that requires little initial commitment, works better than any other kind of effort.
 - The doorway is asking about another human being's needs, urgencies, and struggles, while witnessing to simple joy, peace, and belonging.
 - **Bottom-line of what to do:** *Model this in whatever ways you can in front of your parish community.*
 - **CI workshops that would help:** Conversion in Modern Culture / Entrance into Christ and Participation in God's Life / The Challenge of Charity: Life in the Family of God / Principles of Intercultural Communication
- 2. How to create an RCIA process that is more than just classes, but an authentic place of conversion and discipleship?**
 - The process must have three authentic aspects in balance: Liturgical / Catechetical / Pastoral.
 - Each aspect must have in mind *each individual's process*, not a fixed program through which groups are inserted and paced by a calendar.
 - **Bottom-line of what to do:** *Tell your inquirers that at the beginning and keep saying it as time goes by and rites approach.*
 - **CI workshops that would help:** The Catechumenal Process: A Modern Restoration of an Ancient Practice / Three Approaches to the RCIA Process / Essential Link Between Liturgy and Catechesis / Teaching Catechesis for Conversion / Discipling Adults
- 3. How to really understand and help participants experience the rich liturgies, blessings, scrutinies, and other rites of the RCIA process?**
 - Liturgies are acts of movement – the *discerned choice* to step nearer to the living God, and depend on the graces therein.
 - Trust that graces given through the liturgies of the process are more important than graces given through doctrine or dialogue.
 - **Bottom-line of what to do:** *Schedule individual discernment meetings prior to each major rite, based on the criteria given for each rite.*
 - **CI workshops that would help:** Liturgical Components of the Christian Initiation Process: Gateways and Sources of Grace for Conversion / Wielding the RCIA Rite Book Effectively / The Discernment Process for Participants' Readiness for the Rites
- 4. How to richly unfold the teachings of Jesus and His Church in a thoroughly engaging and deeply convincing way?**
 - Catechesis teaches for conversion – aims for change / harder choices / personal witness / the call to trustingly embrace the Father.
 - There is no shortcut for learning to do excellent formation in RCIA. You must work at it.
 - **Bottom-line of what to do:** *Take these workshops; consider purchasing *Echoing the Mystery* and/or ACM's *Catechist's Manual*.*
 - **CI workshops that would help:** Catechesis: Echoing what God has Revealed / Catechetical Components of the Christian Initiation Process: Illuminating and Securing the Path of Faith / The Ecclesial Method / Analyzing Doctrine with Doctrinal Keys
- 5. How to involve the larger parish community in creative and effective ways in the lives of those seeking to enter the Catholic Church?**
 - Pastoring seeks to show authentic charity, and call it forth, to heal, to elevate, and to point our actions to Christ.
 - Non-teachers can be utterly decisive in the conversion of others; trust that inquirers need to *find a family* not just find truth.
 - **Bottom-line of what to do:** *Have a team; have them do testimonies in the precatechumenate; have intercessors busy for everyone.*
 - **CI workshops that would help:** Developing a Team: Creating an Environment for Conversion / Companions on the Journey: Sponsors and Godparents / The Challenge of Charity: Life in the Family of God / A Foundational Vision: The Role of the Laity
- 6. How to lead neophytes to really feel they have a need for the Mass and a deep desire for Jesus in the Eucharist?**
 - The key to the end is in the beginning. What is your precatechumenate like?
 - If the formation was about meeting their needs, urgencies, and struggles, while witnessing to simple joy, peace, and belonging – all will be well.
 - **Bottom-line:** *Learning how to do the RCIA process well takes real commitment and humility, but the perks cannot be beaten.*
 - **CI workshops that would help:** Catechesis in the Precatechumenate: Delivering the Gospel / Being Guided and Guiding Souls / Catechesis in Mystagogy: Deepening in the Graces Received / Pastoring from the Rite of Election to the Point of Initiation through the Neophyte Year
- 7. What other helpful resources does Franciscan have to offer to help our parish or school succeed in our mission?**
 - **Our resources section on the site:** www.FranciscanAtHome.com/resources.
 - **Our annual St. John Bosco Conference – and all Franciscan University's other summer conferences.**
 - **Our ministry formation magazine – *The Catechetical Review*.**
 - **Our events regularly held for dioceses, local and on-line, and our tutorials and webinar series.**
 - **Our University's online and on-ground degrees and School of Spiritual Direction.**
 - **Our priority on formation for pastoral accompaniment, with online workshops that help build you in that specific skill set, and the option to join the Franciscan International Guild of Catechists and Leaders.**