

RCIA

SOME REMINDERS

1. Children.

Unbaptized Children. Unbaptized children who have attained the use of reason have the same rights as adults for the purpose of Christian initiation (c. 852. 1). These children are to be admitted to catechumenate and be led through the several stages to sacramental initiation (c. 851.1). They should receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil (c. 866 and RCIA, National Statutes, #18)

Baptized Children. Children baptized in a separated ecclesial community with the use of reason who are seeking full communion are also considered adults for purposes of Christian Initiation. They may participate in liturgical rites marking their progress (RCIA #478). These children make a profession of faith, are received into the Church, are confirmed and receive Eucharist (RCIA, #490-498). Reception of candidates into the communion of the Catholic Church may take place at a Sunday Eucharist of the parish (RCIA National Statutes, #32). Reception may also take place at the Vigil, for pastoral reasons (RCIA National Statutes, #34).

2. Time of Celebration.

The celebration of the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) should take place at the Easter Vigil (RCIA,# 23)

Exceptions:

- a) If the Bishop decides circumstances warrant: a change in time outside the usual times (RCIA #34.2);
- b) Danger of death (c. 865.2);
- c) Serious pastoral needs (a great many people to be baptized) (RCIA #26).

3. Divorced People:

A divorced person may participate in the RCIA process and receive the sacraments. There is no impediment to being received into the Church. However, it is important that they know the teaching of the Church regarding marriage. The divorced do not need to petition for an annulment before receiving the sacraments of initiation. They will need to petition for an annulment if they plan to marry in the future.

4. Divorced, Remarried and in Need of an Annulment.

If a person is divorced, remarried, and in need of an annulment, they may participate in the precatechumenate, the Rite of Acceptance and the period of Catechumenate.