



## Christian Initiation of the Young - Fr Elio Capra

*The Office of Worship, Archdiocese of Melbourne, 2000*

### **Christian Initiation of the Young**

In this resource Fr Elio outlines:

- the process of the Christian Initiation of Children & Young People
- shares different models: one for working with High Schools and three for working with Primary Schools.
- explains how to use the Rite of Acceptance, Penitential Rite and Rite of Baptism with this age group.
- provides references to 10 key Gospel themes to explore with young people through Lectionary based catechesis.

### **General Principles:**

The general principles for initiation of young people into the church are the same as the RCIA Process for adults.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION is a means of welcoming people into the Church – the family of God. For these individuals Initiation is:

- The response to God's call to conversion which through faith in the Gospel leads to Baptism
- In Baptism we renounce evil and gain salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life. CCC1427

The Format is a prescribed one – it is:

- a process not a program
- about the integration of faith and life
- about developing a relationship with God
- about discipleship not membership
- Parish based \*

\* Initiation of catechumens is a gradual process, it takes place within the community of the faithful. By joining the catechumens in reflecting on the paschal mystery, and by renewing their own conversion the faithful provide an example that will help the catechumens to obey the Holy Spirit more generously. The rite of initiation is suited to the spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God's grace, the free cooperation of the individual, the action of the Church and the circumstances of time and place.

RCIA Journey is an invitation to **Come and See**:

- What we believe (who we believe in and the teachings associated with that)
- How our community prays and worships
- How our community lives
- How our community serves and ministers to others.

## The Stages

1<sup>st</sup> stage of Enquiry introduces the four areas of faith the young people have chosen to **Come and See**. The process helps prepare the young people for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, the catechumenate in which they will:

- Discover and grow in relationship with God *Kerygma / (Being)*
- Become familiar with the life and teachings of Jesus *Evangelia / (Story)*
- Experience the life and rituals of the Church *Leitourgia / Spirituality:*
- Grow in relationship with others *Koinonia / (Belonging)*
- Recognise the call to serve *Diakonia / (Giving)*

## Lectionary Based Catechesis

Lectionary based Catechesis for young people follows the same format as used with adults, providing a means of reflecting on the Sunday Gospels. It explores 10 key themes.

### Ten Gospel Themes central to the process of conversion

Theme	Matthew Sundays Cycle ?	Mark Sunday Cycle	Luke Sunday Cycle
<b>Call</b>	Mt 4:18-22	Mk 1:14-20	Lk 5:1-11
<b>Conversion</b>	Mt 3:1-11	Mk 1:6-11	Lk 3:2-6,10-18
<b>Healing</b>	Mt 9:1-8	Mk 10: 46-52	Lk 17:11-19
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Mt 18:21-35	Mk 2:13-17	Lk 15:1-32
<b>Gospel Values 1</b>	Mt 6:1-4,16-34	Mk 12:28-34	Lk 6: 17,20-26
<b>Gospel Values 2</b>	Mt 13:44-50	Mk 12:41-44	Lk 10: 25-37
<b>Prayer</b>	Mt 6:5-15	Mk 1:35-37	Lk 11:1-13
<b>Sharing</b>	Mt 15:32-39	Mk 6:30-44	Lk 24:13-35
<b>Mission</b>	Mt 5:13-16	Mk 3:13-18	Lk 4:14-21
<b>Empowered by the Spirit</b>	Mt 28:16-20	Mk 16:14-18	Lk 7:1-10

The process involves conversations that encourage sharing on five different levels:

- **My story** (personal experience)
- **Jesus' take on the matter** (Exploring the Word of God)
- **Living the Story** (Sharing the tradition of the Church)
- **How to respond** (Making connections to our own lives)
- **In prayer** together