



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pastors
FROM: Patrick Donovan
DATE: May 3, 2021
RE: RCIA Collaborative

In an effort to assist parishes with fewer RCIA candidates and catechumens, The Leadership Institute is creating an RCIA Collaborative. There are four essential elements to the collaborative:

Local Connection

All liturgical celebrations and sacraments continue to take place at the local level. We want candidates and catechumens to continue to be connected to their local parishes, their sacramental home.

Hybrid Formation

We learned through the pandemic that hybrid formation has benefits. Formation in the collaborative happens partially online as well as in person. Participants are able to complete work at their own pace and then come together to discuss what they have learned.

Regional Formation

This is especially beneficial for parishes who struggle to recruit volunteers. Formation happens regionally. Learning sites will be established once we know which parishes would like to join the collaborative.

Rolling Enrollment

The collaborative will allow for people to join a cohort at any time, letting go of the traditional parochial model of formation.

This pilot program will begin in Summer 2021 and parishes will begin to enroll participants shortly thereafter. I believe by working together, we can effectively engage others in the richness of our faith in a more productive way.

To learn more, please email me at pdonovan@diobpt.org.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a cost?

The pilot program is being funded by a grant from the John Paul II Fund from Foundations in Faith. In subsequent years, a small fee will be assessed to parishes (approximately \$150) to cover the cost of the formation materials.

Can any parish join?

Yes. The collaborative is open to all parishes.

Can I offer to be a host site?

Yes. If you wish to participate and offer your parish as a learning site, please email

pdonovan@diobpt.org.

What materials are used?

We have partnered with RCL/Benziger to utilize their *Apprentices in Faith* program. *Apprentices* is a unique online resource that offers a variety of easy-to-use materials. Instant online access lets participants to access materials and allows catechists to download, print, and email materials to team members and participants. The materials are organized according to the four periods of the RCIA: Inquiry, Catechumenate, Purification and Enlightenment, and Mystagogy.

Who are the master catechists?

Depending on the number of sites, master catechists will be recruited by The Leadership Institute.

We will also offer specific formation for these catechists. To nominate someone, please email

pdonovan@diobpt.org.

What's included?

The program includes formation for catechists, materials and formation for candidates and catechumens, access to online information, and food for gathered sessions.

The following written materials are provided for participants and sponsors:

For the Inquirer

- Handbook for Inquirers

For the Catechumens and Candidates

- Catechumenate Participant Book
- Handbook for Prayer
- Handbook for Neophytes

For the Sponsor

- Handbook for Sponsors

What formation is offered for the team?

Catechists formation include sound background information on the Scripture and Church teaching, as well as formation on how to effectively accompany others on the journey of discovering more about the richness of the Catholic faith.

