



Catholic Diocese of Evansville

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To: Pastors, PLCs, DREs, RCIA Coordinators
From: Matt Miller, Office of Worship
Date: January 3, 2013
Subject: RCIA – Clarifications Regarding the Baptized and the RCIA

There have been some questions regarding the proper participation of the baptized in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The following outline hopes to address some of the more common concerns.

- Baptized Christians (non-Catholic) are allowed to participate in the rites as outlined for them in the RCIA (Part II: Chapter 4):
 - Rite of Welcoming the Candidates
 - Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop
 - Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion
 - Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)

- Baptized Catholics (uncatechized) are allowed to participate in the rites as outlined in the RCIA (Part II: Chapter 4):
 - Rite of Welcoming the Candidates
 - Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop
 - Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion
 - Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)

- Catholics at the Easter Vigil
 - Baptized Catholics, be they catechized or uncatechized, are not to complete their sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. This should happen at another time – another Sunday in the Easter Season, Pentecost, etc.

- Baptized Christians seeking Full Communion and the Easter Vigil
 - If a parish does not have Elect to be baptized at the Vigil and only has candidates seeking full Communion, then those seeking full Communion should do so at a time outside of the Vigil (another Sunday in the Easter Season, Pentecost, etc.)
 - See *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, 32-34
 - The initiation rites of the Easter Vigil are primarily intended for the unbaptized, but a combined rite for both the Elect and candidates is provided in the RCIA (Appendix I: 4) and is permitted
 - However, the stand-alone “Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church” (Part II: Chapter 5) is not intended to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil