



APPLICATION OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS IN A HIGH SCHOOL SETTING

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

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The parish community is the typical place for the formation of high school age candidates for the Easter Sacraments. In some cases, the school setting becomes the primary place for this formation. When this is the case the *Order for Christian Initiation of Adults*, carried out by the priest on staff or with the assistance of another priest or another qualified catechist, is properly adapted as allowed by the order itself.

A distinction is always made among the various candidates between those who are unbaptized and those who are baptized.

For the Unbaptized:

- Unbaptized candidates over fourteen years of age are to be prepared for the Easter Sacraments as adult candidates.
 - Written permission of the proper pastor and of the parents/guardians is required before these candidates can be accepted as catechumens in the school setting. Each candidate is to have a sponsor/godparent who fulfills the canonical requirements.
- The periods and steps outlined in the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* are observed. These periods may be adjusted as described in the order.
- The acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the rites during the catechumenate may take place in the school setting. The period of the catechumenate should, if at all possible, last at least one year. All that is described in the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* with regard to the content of the

catechumenate should be observed, especially a specific program of catechetical formation in the school setting apart from religion/theology classes.

- The catechumens should participate in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral with the Bishop on the First Sunday of Lent. The sending of the catechumens to the Bishop may take place in the school setting.
- The Scrutinies and Presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer may take place in the school setting. The Scrutinies should take place within Mass, if possible, and may take place during the week.
- The celebration of the Easter Sacraments takes place at the Easter Vigil in the parish church of the elect or may take place in another parish church for good reason.
 - Permission of the Archbishop is needed for the Elect fourteen years or older to receive the Easter Sacraments apart from the Easter Vigil. This permission should be sought through the assistance of the Office for Divine Worship.
- A period of mystagogia should be observed.
- The neophyte should be encouraged to celebrate often the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation following full Christian Initiation.
- The acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the inscription into the *Book of the Elect* is recorded in the parish books.
- The reception of the Easter Sacraments is recorded in the Baptism Register of the parish where the Sacraments were celebrated.

For Baptized Catholics:

- For Baptized Catholics who are preparing for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion, a specific program of formation can be developed for these candidates in the school setting apart from religion/theology classes.
 - Written permission of the proper pastor and of the parents/guardians is required before these candidates can be prepared for these Sacraments in the school setting. Each candidate for Confirmation is to have a sponsor/godparent who fulfills the canonical requirements.
- The first celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation may take place in the school setting. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is to be celebrated prior to receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion.
- The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in the parish church, usually when the Bishop confers the Sacrament. A priest may request delegation from the Archbishop to confer the Sacrament in the parish church. As an added reminder, all priests who have the full faculties of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia also possess the faculty to confirm baptized Catholics who are sixteen years of age

and older, provided that the Confirmation takes place between Palm Sunday and Pentecost Sunday (inclusive).

- The reception of the Sacrament is recorded in the Confirmation Register of the parish where the Sacrament was celebrated. The church of Baptism is to be notified of the Confirmation.
- The Reception of First Holy Communion takes place in the parish church.
- The reception of the Sacrament is recorded in the Communion Register of the parish where the Sacrament was received.

For Baptized Non-Catholics:

- For Baptized Non-Catholics who are preparing for full communion with the Catholic Church, a specific program of formation can be developed for these candidates in the school setting apart from religion/theology classes.
 - Written permission of the proper pastor and of the parents/guardians is required before these candidates can be prepared for full communion in the school setting. Each candidate for full communion is to have a sponsor/godparent who fulfills the canonical requirements.
 - The prior baptism of these candidates must be determined to have been valid. Otherwise, a conditional baptism may be necessary prior to the candidate being received into full communion.
- The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation must be celebrated prior to reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. This may take place in the school setting.
- The Rite of Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church as found in the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* takes place in the parish church. The particular law of the United States is followed in the Archdiocese with a preference for only Baptisms taking place at the Easter Vigil and Reception taking place at any other time of the year.
- The Reception into Full Communion, along with information about the baptism, is recorded in the Full Communion Register of the parish where the reception took place.