

DIOCESE OF BAKER



PASTORAL GUIDELINES

Chapter Five: Office of Sanctification

Appendix

PASTORAL IMPLEMENTATION OF
SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

7 October, 2014

ABBREVIATIONS

C	Canon
CC	Canons
CCC	<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
CIC	<i>1983 Code of Canon Law</i>
NSC	<i>National Statutes for the Catechumenate</i>
PG	<i>Diocese of Baker Pastoral Guidelines, Chapter Five: Office of Sanctification</i>
RCIA	<i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>
#/##	Number/Numbers
§/§§	Paragraph/Paragraphs

GUIDELINES FOR PASTORAL IMPLEMENTATION OF SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Status	Accompaniment	Pastoral Implementation
A. Catechumen. ✓ Unbaptized ✓ Uncatechized ✓ Use of reason*	1. RCIA. 2. Receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the same celebration. 3. Primary celebration is Easter Vigil.	i. No pastoral discretion. ii. Unless a grave reason prevents it, a priest who baptizes such a person should also confer the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. There is no pastoral discretion to confer only Baptism, or only Baptism and Eucharist, and then to defer either Eucharist and Confirmation or defer Confirmation to a later date. (cf. 1983 <i>CIC</i> cc. 842 §2 and 866 and 883; RCIA, #305; NSC, #14, #18, #35)

* Cf. 1983 *CIC* c. 97 §2. A child who has completed the seventh year (i.e. 8-years old) is presumed to have the use of reason.

Status	Accompaniment	Pastoral Implementation
B. Catechumen. ✓ Unbaptized ✓ Catechized ✓ Use of reason	1. RCIA. 2. Same as above (2). 3. Primary celebration is Easter Vigil.	i. Some pastoral discretion. A priest may determine that such a person (for instance, one who was raised Catholic but who, for whatever reason, never received the sacraments) is sufficiently catechized so as to need only an abbreviated RCIA process. ii. Same as above (ii).

Status	Accompaniment	Pastoral Implementation
<p>C. Candidate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Baptized non-Catholic ✓ Uncatechized ✓ Use of reason 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RCIA. 2. Profession of Faith, Confirmation and Eucharist at the same celebration (Rite of Reception into Full Communion) 3. Preferred celebration is any Sunday Mass. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Some pastoral discretion. ii. During the RCIA, clear distinction of candidates (baptized Christian seeking full communion with the Catholic Church) from catechumens (unbaptized persons) must be maintained both during the formation process and at all liturgical rites. iii. It is preferable that reception into full communion not take place at the Easter Vigil. If, for pastoral reasons, there are both catechumens and baptized Christians at the Vigil, the combined rite is to be followed: “Celebration at the Easter Vigil of the Sacraments of Initiation and the Rite of Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church.” (NSC, #25, ##30-35)
Status	Accompaniment	Pastoral Implementation
<p>D. Candidate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Baptized non-Catholic ✓ Catechized ✓ Use of reason 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RCIA or other catechetical preparation. 2. Same as above (2). 3. Same as above (3). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Some pastoral discretion. A pastor may determine that such a person is sufficiently catechized so as to need only an abbreviated RCIA process and can then be received into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Full Communion. ii. Same as above (ii and iii). iii. If a baptized non-Catholic within the age range of 1st – 5th Grade has been practicing the Catholic faith (e.g. catechized in the Catholic faith at the same level as their Catholic peers in a Catholic School), a pastor may decide that such a person is sufficiently catechized in the Catholic faith and permit him or her to make a Profession of Faith and enter the regular religious education program, deferring the reception of Eucharist and or Confirmation until the usual ages. (NSC, #25, ##30-35)

Status	Accompaniment	Pastoral Implementation
<p>E. Like a Candidate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Baptized Catholic ✓ Uncatechized ✓ Use of reason 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RCIA. 2. Confirmation and Eucharist at the same celebration (Rite of Full Communion) 3. Preferred celebration is any Sunday Mass (i and ii) or regularly scheduled Rite of Confirmation with the bishop (iii). 4. Celebration at Easter Vigil is not appropriate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Some pastoral discretion. A pastor may decide that a person who is younger than the usual age of Confirmation or Eucharist and has never formally left the Church may either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive sufficient training through the RCIA or Rite of Full Communion and then receive both Confirmation and Eucharist at the same celebration, or • Be catechized through the regular religious education program of the parish and be sacramentalized with their peers. ii. A person who was baptized Catholic as an infant but formally left the Catholic Church and joined another church before full initiation into the Catholic Church must seek readmission to the Catholic Church through the Rite of Reception, and may be confirmed by a priest at that time. iii. Those who never formally left the Catholic Church by admission to another church or ecclesial community have the right to be confirmed by the bishop and may not be confirmed by a priest without delegation by the bishop. (NSC, ##28-29)

Status	Accompaniment	Pastoral Implementation
<p>F. Uninitiated Catholic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Baptized Catholic ✓ Various levels of catechesis ✓ Use of reason 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmation and Eucharist at the same celebration (Rite of Full Communion) 2. Preferred celebration is any Sunday Mass (i and ii) or regularly scheduled Rite of Confirmation with the bishop (iii). 3. Celebration at Easter Vigil is not appropriate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Same as above (i). ii. The RCIA is not the appropriate place for someone who has some level of catechetical training and is seeking only Confirmation; a parish should have an age-appropriate Confirmation program for such a person. However, if the person seeking Confirmation is not opposed to attending the RCIA, it is acceptable. Still, Confirmation should be done at a liturgy other than the Easter Vigil so as not to confuse him or her with candidates or catechumens. iii. Same as above (iii). <p>(NSC, ##28-29)</p>

PASTORAL GUIDELINES IMPORTANT NOTES

Situation	Important Notes
Baptism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoles symbolize the ordained ministry (deaconate, priesthood) and are not to be worn by candidates for Baptism and Confirmation • No pastor has the option of altering the sequence of the administration of the sacraments of initiation for children who have reached the use of reason; it is the catechumen's right to receive all three sacraments of initiation, and the priest's responsibility to administer all three at one Eucharistic celebration
Confession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After proper catechesis, a baptized non-Catholic should receive the sacrament of Confession before reception into full communion with the Church • An unbaptized person cannot receive the sacrament of Confession before Baptism
Confirmation	A priest who baptizes an adult or a child with the use of reason must also give the other two sacraments of initiation: Confirmation and Eucharist.
Sacraments of Initiation and divorce, remarriage, and annulments.	<p>A person in a second (or third +) marriage without having had previous marriage(s) annulled, and whose previous spouse is still living, may not be fully initiated into the Church until the impediment of prior marriage bond is resolved (cf. 1983 <i>CIC</i> c. 1085). It should be made crystal clear to such person that they will not be able to receive the Sacraments of Initiation until their irregular marital situation is resolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons who are in an irregular marriage (e.g. have divorced and remarried outside of the Church, without having obtained a declaration of nullity) cannot receive Holy Communion (cf. <i>CCC</i>, ##1649-1651 and #1665) <p>Note that there are exceptions to this. Each case must be looked at individually. For instance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A divorced person who has not received an annulment and who does not desire to remarry may be initiated (if that person later changes their mind and decides to seek marriage, an annulment must be sought). 2) A divorced person who has not received an annulment, but is planning to marry during the course of preparation for the sacraments of initiation, but before an annulment is granted, should delay entry into the Church until the annulment is granted.

Reception into Full Communion: Eastern Orthodox.	“In the case of Eastern Orthodox Christians who enter into the fullness of Catholic communion, no liturgical rite is required, but simply a profession of Catholic faith, even if such persons are permitted, in virtue of recourse to the Apostolic See, to transfer to the Latin rite” (RCIA, #474).
Extreme Situations just before reception into the Church	In unusual situations circumstances can arise (e.g. imprisonment, criminal charges against the elect, disparaging remarks against the faith made by the elect/candidate) which merit postponing a person’s reception into the Church, even immediately before the celebration, until a more peaceful time. Such a decision to postpone reception is to be made by the pastor.
Foster Children	A foster child may not be admitted to the RCIA or any sacramental preparation program unless the child’s parents or legal guardian (possibly the State) give permission.
Omission of RCIA Scrutiny	Requests for the permission to omit a scrutiny are to be submitted in writing by the pastor to the bishop. The scrutinies must be celebrated on Sundays in Lent according to the ritual Masses provided in the sacramentary with the “A” cycle reading only (see Lectionary for Mass, ##745-747).
Private Pastoral Instruction for RCIA or Sacramental Preparation.	<p>A Pastor always has the option to instruct privately for serious reasons such as an illness, a handicap, or a serious schedule conflict which prevents the inquirer/candidate/catechumen from attending the RCIA or sacramental preparation process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extraordinary circumstances are either those which inhibit the candidate from completing all the steps of the catechumenate or a depth of Christian conversion and a degree of religious maturity that lead the bishop to decide that the candidate may receive the sacraments of initiation without delay, for example; sickness, old age, change of residence, long absence for travel, may sometimes either prevent a candidate from celebrating the rite of acceptance that leads to the period of the catechumenate or, having begun the catechumenate, from completing it by participation in all the rites belonging to the period (cf. RCIA, 331-332) <p>The <i>National Statutes for the Catechumenate</i> clarifies it a bit further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The abbreviated catechumenate, which the diocesan bishop may permit only in individual and exceptional cases...should always be as limited as possible...The catechumenate of persons who move from one parish to another or from one diocese to another should not on that account alone be abbreviated.” (NSC, #20)

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APPENDIX: VALID / INVALID AND CONDITIONAL BAPTISMS

The following information is provided by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis with the hope that it will help discern the canonical status of baptized candidates for full communion.

Definition of a valid Christian Baptism

According to the traditional doctrine of the Catholic Church there are four requirements for the valid administration of the sacrament of Baptism: the matter, the form, the intention of the minister, and the right disposition of the recipient.

(cf. CCC, 1239-40, 1256; 1983 CIC cc. 861 §2 and 869 §2)

Non-Catholics who have been baptized in other Churches or ecclesial (as long as there is no doubt regarding the form and matter or the intention of the minister) are not to be baptized again.

Conditional Baptism

If, after completing a diligent inquiry, a prudent doubt exists that baptism was neither actually nor validly conferred, then conditional baptism is to be conferred in a non-solemn (private) form (cf. 1983 CIC cc. 845 §2 and 869).

It is presumed as a matter of Church norm that baptism conferred in a Christian church or ecclesial community is conferred validly, unless otherwise specified as in the case of Mormon baptism.

Reference List of Churches and Communities with Valid Baptism

- All Eastern Orthodox Churches not in communion with Rome
- African Methodist Episcopal
- Amish
- Anglican
- Assembly of God
- Baptists
- Evangelical United Brethren Church of the Brethren
- Church of God
- Church of the Nazarene
- Congregational Church
- Disciples of Christ
- Episcopalians
- Evangelical Churches
- Lutherans
- Methodists
- Liberal Catholic Church
- Old Catholics
- Old Roman Catholics
- Polish National Church
- Presbyterian Church
- Reformed Churches
- Seventh Day Adventists
- United Church of Christ

Reference List of Churches and Communities with Invalid Baptisms

- Bahai Faith
- Christadelphians
- Christian Science
- Church of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Doukhobers
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Masons
- Metropolitan Community Church
- Mormon Church (Latter-Day Saints)
- Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Salvation Army
- Unitarian Universalist

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Diocese of Baker



Pastoral Office

PO Box 5999

Bend, OR 97701

Phone: 541-388-4004

Fax: 541-388-2566