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PARTS I AND II

Table of Contents for Doctrines and Special Topics

These two major sections contain a wealth of handouts for participants in the RCIA process. Both sections are combined in the table of contents so that their complementarity can be more clearly seen, and the choice of handouts may be more easily made by parish RCIA leaders. Generally, these two large sections of handouts are written to be used as *extensions to a given teaching*, not as the “text” for the session. Therefore, they do not contain elements for use in a small group, such as discussion questions (which are instead provided in the companion *Catechist’s Manual* in accord with each lesson plan and in Part VII of this text).

The Doctrines and Special Topics handouts are designed to support the verbal communication of the faith, and therefore deliberately go into greater detail than a typical spoken RCIA catechesis. This allows the handouts to provide not only more depth on a given subject, but also more Sacred Scripture, as well as helpful references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Some participants may find this essential to gain a clear understanding of some aspect of the faith, while others may not feel the need to read much beyond what they have heard in the sessions. The handouts allow for that flexibility. If given to sponsors and team members, as well as to participants, the handouts will greatly aid in the difficulty that these volunteers often encounter in answering certain questions. RCIA directors and catechists may judge that additional handouts are needed in a given year that this *Participant’s Book* does not provide (or does not communicate in the desired degree of depth). Certain news events (such as a terrorist attack or a weather disaster), Church issues (such as public heresy or the pedophilia scandal), scientific developments (such as the rapidly changing fields of cloning, stem-cell research, and artificial methods of conception), or more commonly misunderstood moral issues (such as abortion, contraception, and the just war doctrine) may create the necessity of finding highly contemporary or more in-depth material to help RCIA participants gain a Catholic perspective on the situation, so as to build instead of threaten faith.

Notes regarding the Table of Contents:

- 1) Handouts are listed in alphabetical order, not in the order in which they are to be used.
- 2) Asterisked titles are found in Part II, Special Topics.
- 3) Titles beginning with “The” are alphabetized using the following word.
- 4) CAPITALIZED items are subject listings rather than titles.
- 5) Titles are extensively cross-referenced to facilitate assembling related handouts; this cross-referencing also exemplifies the organic unity of the Faith.



PART III

Psalms and Canticles

The Psalms and Canticles in this section have been formatted as handouts for use by participants in Liturgies of the Word that can begin a catechetical session (see RCIA 81-89). When necessary, Psalms have been shortened to fit onto a single page. This ensures that the Liturgy of the Word is balanced in length among the first reading, Psalm or Canticle, and Gospel reading. The verses used in these shortened Psalms, and in the Canticles, are shown in the tables of contents below.

For each Psalm and Canticle, both a musical refrain and a refrain suitable for spoken response have been provided (in many cases, the musical refrain is also suitable as a spoken refrain). For the convenience of the catechist an Index of Sources for Sung Psalm and Canticle Refrains is provided, listing the widely-available hymn books from which the sung refrains have been selected.

In the following table of contents are listed the Psalms and Canticles suggested for use with each of the lesson plans in the companion *Catechist's Manual* in the ON THE JOURNEY series. Also included in this list are Psalms suggested for seasonal Liturgies of the Word that may, at the catechist's discretion, replace the Liturgy of the Word suggested for the lesson scheduled at that time. Seasonal Liturgies of the Word may also be used for special events for candidates, such as retreats, holy hours, and the like that are not devoted to any single lesson.

Following the table is a list of the additional Psalms and Canticles that have been included in this section to provide the catechist alternatives to those suggested. When necessary, these also have been shortened to fit each Psalm or Canticle onto a single page.

PART IV

Litanies and Other Prayers

This section contains a small selection of prayers that are particularly suitable for use in a catechumenal setting. All are formatted for responsorial use as handouts. There are many others that could have been chosen, but those included here are given simply to provide RCIA leaders with a few other options besides the Psalms and Canticles for group prayer, retreats, and other opportunities to engage RCIA participants in the rich traditions of prayer in the Church.

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Litany for Holy Communion

Litany of the Holy Spirit

Litany of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Litany of the Sacred Heart

Litany of the Saints

Litany of Saint Joseph

Angelus

Regina Coeli

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Pentecost Sequence

Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction



PART V

Lives of Saints

This section contains seventy-five lives of saints, blesseds, and venerables. They are written specifically with RCIA participants in mind — explaining certain things in greater depth, and drawing out certain themes having to do with conversion, dealing with sin, deepening one's prayer and devotional life, handling adversities, and other aspects of holy lives that would be particularly edifying or helpful to those considering becoming Catholic.

The selection of these particular saints and other holy men and women is not intended to suggest that others are less applicable to a catechumenal situation. Instead, the intention is to present a suitable cross-section of our elder brothers and sisters in the faith, so that participants can gain a feel for the universal Church and the blessed variety of divine callings and heroic human responses.

These stories focus less upon the actions or deeds of a given person, and more upon the ways God called each of them, and the difficulty and beauty of each one's struggle to attain genuine sanctity. The stories can be given out on or near a feast day or as a means of giving emphasis to a certain teaching. Of course, as with the rest of this *Participant's Book*, RCIA leaders may opt to use these handouts weekly, less frequently, or not at all. This section is supported by several indexes that list the saints in alphabetical order, by feast day, by various biographical categories, and by century of death.

Declaration:

In accordance with the decree of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that in speaking of events, prodigies, and revelations in this work, we wish to accord them no other authority or belief than that which is usually given to narratives resting on merely human evidence and we in no way presume to pronounce on their authenticity or supernatural character, or to anticipate the judgment of the Holy See and the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints, to which we unreservedly submit.





PART VI

Conversion Stories

This section contains twenty-one conversion stories by individuals who have entered the Catholic Church as adults in recent years. The intention of providing these stories is to give RCIA participants a clearer picture of how God's grace often works in people's lives when he calls them to the Catholic Church. Each is written to place emphasis on both the "how" and the "why" of a person's choice to follow Jesus' call to enter into the arms of Holy Mother Church.

The stories can be handed out at regular intervals throughout the RCIA process, or used to highlight specific issues, or even given privately to certain participants with whom there is a similarity in the details of a given story. The stories were chosen for the variety of responses of these individuals to God's call.

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- A Future and a Hope, by Joe Allison
Going Through the Door, by Anonymous
Not Obligated, but Freely Choosing, by Anonymous
From Bible Anarchy to the Joy of Apostolic Authority, by Doug Beasley
Waiting for the Invitation, by Paul Bennett
In Mary's Womb, by Andrea Bolster
Come Home, for to This You Were Born, by Dana Brault
God Will Reveal His Plan to Us, by Anne Brauner
Little Mary and My Trinity of Friends, by Shari Deeb
God Cares Specifically About Me, by Julie Eddy
Many Apostles Bring Me to the Church, by Jim Ensley
Finding the Desire of My Heart, by Fr. Ed Fride
Seeing the Love of God, by Anne Foy
Mary By My Side, by James M. Herbert
Happily Ever After, by Heather Keimig
Lost and Then Found, by Stephanie Nemecek
Finding the Truth, Finding My God, by Eric Pavlat
Beacon of the Catholic Faith, by Debbie Plescia
A Gentle, Guiding Hand, by Brenda Randall
Joy, Freedom, and Ecstasy, by Steve Ray
Accepting Jesus as God and Lord, by Jim Safford
Ready to Accept Christ into My Life, by Randy Shaw
Starving for the Eucharist, by Martha Tonn
My Friend is Jesus, by Steve Westmoreland
Have Mercy on Me, Lord, by Belinda Wickham

PART VII

Small Group Discussion Questions

The purpose of this part of the *Participant's Book* is to provide a practical means to use the application questions offered at the end of each of the sixty lesson plans in the ON THE JOURNEY series companion *Catechist's Manual*. A catechist or RCIA director may opt simply to copy these pages a number of times and slice up the copies to give each small group a set of questions.

However, many parishes will decide to combine certain lesson plans or expand sections of other lesson plans into entire teachings. In these cases, the sixty categories of these questions are not the desired breakdown. As well, some parishes will decide not to use all of the questions suggested for a given session, or may like to add questions more suitable to a given set of participants. For all of these reasons, these questions are offered in this book to be copied as needed, and in electronic form to be altered as desired.

What's Inside the *RCIA Participant's Book?*

Edited by Barbara A. Morgan and William J. Keimig

↔ Copyable

- Entire product is copyable for use within the parish, institution, or home that buys it
- Artwork selected to accommodate clear and sharp photocopying of all handouts

↔ Printable

- All 380 handouts can be printed from the enclosed CD-ROM using Adobe Acrobat Reader®
- Discussion questions can be downloaded and modified for a variety of situations

↔ User-Friendly

- CD comes with extensive printed indexes and cross-reference system
- Fully navigable cross-reference system in the CD-ROM

↔ Scriptural

- Over 2000 quotations and citations of Scripture, not including the psalms handouts
- Balanced use of the Old Testament and the New Testament

↔ Beautiful

- Over 800 photographs and images used in the 380 handouts
- Art and photography selected to represent the rich diversity of the Catholic faith in many cultures and many eras, from our Old Testament heritage up to the worldwide Church of modern times

↔ Flexible

- You decide what handouts to use, when to use them, and who receives them
- Handouts can be used in many other aspects of adult education such as parent meetings, bulletin inserts, catechist training, retreats, Bible studies, faith-sharing groups, infant Baptism preparation, marriage preparation, etc.

"This comprehensive presentation of our faith is an excellent resource for any parish RCIA team and Adult Religious Education program."

— Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York



↔ Comprehensive

- Designed for systematic and organic catechesis, covering the entire content of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, with over 650 citations
- Presents the full splendor of the Catholic faith

↔ Approved

- *Nilil Obstat* and *Imprimatur*
- Field-tested by many RCIA directors and catechists

THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS ON CD:

- Part I — Doctrines (125 handouts)
- Part II — Special Topics (41 handouts)
- Part III — Psalms and Canticles (102 handouts)
- Index of Sources for Sung Psalm and Canticle Refrains
- Part IV — Litanies and Other Prayers (16 handouts)
- Part V — Lives of Saints (75 handouts)
- Index of Saints Alphabetically, by Feast Day, and by Categories
- Part VI — Conversion Stories (25 handouts)
- Part VII — Small Group Discussion Questions (over 200 questions)
- Index of Citations to Sacred Scripture for Doctrines and Special Topics
- Index of Citations to the Catechism of the Catholic Church for Doctrines and Special Topics

Everything above is endlessly copyable and printable from the enclosed CD.



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