



Christian Initiation
Australia Network

NETWORK NEWS

Summer 2022

Words from the Chair



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! It's with great joy that we enter into 2022 with the Lord Jesus. As we approach Lent, it's also

a time of discernment of our catechumens' readiness to pass through the Rite of Election. We have journeyed with our catechumens for many months, if not years, observing how they have deepened their relationship with Christ and the Christian faithful in our parishes. Some catechumens still need more time and will not be ready for the sacraments this Easter, so we continue to accompany them through their struggles, bearing witness to Christ's love for them. Other catechumens are ready and desire to be united with Christ in baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist. It's a blessed role we have as RCIA team members to watch how God works in a person's life.

This edition of the Network News includes Part 2 of Lori Smith's article "RCIA Adapted for Families: It's All About the Parents." Part I appeared in our last Network News. The article draws upon the insights of Sherry Weddell's work on 'Intentional Discipleship' and applies it to parish evangelisation to reach the whole family.

Since the time for systematic catechesis draws to a close at the end of the catechuminate, sometimes it difficult to know what to do in RCIA during Lent. So we've included TeamRCIA's article "Don't Catechize in Lent," which provides helpful guidance as to what to do with the Elect in this period of purification and enlightenment.

Lisa McKerr has given us an overview of the Brisbane Archdiocese's Lenten program, which might be of interest for your parishes.

Finally, my article provides practical tips on how to discern whether a catechumen is ready for the Rite of Election. The questions arising in the discernment process are aimed at addressing the requirements of the Rite of Election, which itself is aimed at ensuring our catechumens are progressing in their conversion process. We want them to be ready to meet their Lord at the celebration of the sacraments at Easter.

Let's pray for one another!

Yours in Christ,
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Contents

[Words from the chair](#)

[Don't Catechise in Lent](#)

[Discernment of Readiness for the Rite of Election](#)

[RCIA Adapted for Families: It's All About the Parents
\(Part Two: Developing a Process\)](#)

[The Spirit and the Cross Resource](#)

Christian Initiation Australia Network seeks to support all those who share the vision of the RCIA

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Don't Catechise in Lent

Nick Wagner says that if your Lenten catechesis for the elect looks a lot like the catechesis that was going on during the period of the catechuminate, then something is amiss. Nick gives three key questions you can get your Elect to focus on during Lent. [\[More . . .\]](#)

Discernment of Readiness or 'Suitableness' for the Rite of Election

Dr Christine Wood looks at the RCIA book to discover what we are looking for in our catechumens to discern their readiness – or 'suitableness' as the rite says – for the Rite of Election.

Discernment involves hearing the testimony of godparents and catechists that the catechumens are suitable for election. This means they have been sufficiently prepared during the catechuminate for reception of the sacraments. [\[More . . .\]](#)

RCIA Adapted for Families: It's All About the Parents

[\(Part Two: Developing a Process\)](#)

[Part One](#) established the rationale for the wise process of the RCIA to move to the forefront of our endeavours for evangelisation and catechesis of entire families. This article explores the elements involved in developing a process incorporating post-baptismal evangelisation and catechesis for parents, inspired by the RCIA model. [\[More . . .\]](#)

The Spirit and the Cross Resource

Evangelisation Brisbane has developed a new Lent and Easter Octave reflection resource called The Spirit and the Cross. Written for busy individuals but easily adapted for groups, each day includes a scripture reading, a reflection upon it, some questions to aid prayer and discussion, and quotes from Pope Francis.

The daily reflections, written by Deacon Peter Pellican, invite the reader to contemplate a verse from the Scripture reading of the day, and offers questions for reflection and discussion. [\[More . . .\]](#)



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Network News is the quarterly bulletin of the Christian Initiation Network Australia.

The Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN) is a support network of those who share the vision of the catechumenate. Its purpose is to promote the practice of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) through sharing ideas and challenges.

CIAN Membership is open to all who have a commitment to and/or work with the RCIA in Australia.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue of *Network News*.

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The next issue will be circulated in May 2022.

Please send stories to share, news or events to publicise, articles to contribute or resources to recommend by 13 May, 2022 to the editor, Max Norden, (contact details above) or to the CIAN chair:

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For more RCIA Resources, go to ciannetwork.net/

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