



Winter 2023 Network News

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Winter edition of Network News. Unfortunately, we were unable to publish the Autumn edition due to technical problems, so this edition includes some bonus materials. On behalf of the CIAN Executive, I'm excited to announce the launch of CIAN's new website, which is easier to navigate and contains more resources for RCIA teams.

The website also includes a new payment system for memberships so we are now calling for membership renewals. In the past, annual memberships have been due in September. This will continue but since we haven't requested renewals for over a year – nor have we been able to take them form some months – we are now calling for membership renewals. Memberships renewed between now and Sept. 2023 will be valid until Sept. 2024. You will receive a personalised login to access the Members Area on the website, without which you will be unable to access most of CIAN's materials. I encourage you to renew your memberships TODAY.

In March we continued our webinar series with Br. Bernard Fonkalsrud OFM Conv. enlightening us about what to do in RCIA during the period of "Holy Week and Mystagogy." Br. Bernard joined Kathy Horan from Adelaide for our June webinar for Diocesan RCIA Coordinators on the topic of "Steps to begin the RCIA Process for New Enquirers." Br. Bernard and Kathy have provided insights on how to revitalise your parish RCIA process. Inside this edition of Network News you can find articles about the catechetical dimension of RCIA, handy new resources from the National Centre for Evangelisation for catechumens and candidates, and a story about Ven. Satoko Kitahara, who can be proposed as an inspiration to your catechumens and neophytes.

This edition also includes the first article of a series on Applied Theology of the Body, in which Dr. Ascì explains the difference between contraception and natural family planning. This is a topic that must be explained adequately during the catechumenate, and many RCIA teams struggle to explain it well. Hopefully, Dr. Ascì's explanation will help you in your catechetical and pastoral ministry.

If you have any good conversion stories – or reflections on the RCIA process by neophytes or team members – please email us as we may be able to incorporate them into our Network News letters.

Let me close with some words of encouragement in your RCIA ministry from Pope Francis's address to the Pontifical Mission Societies (May 9, 2014):

"It is [Christ] who gives us the strength to undertake the missionary journey, and the joy of proclaiming the Gospel so that the light of Christ may enlighten all those who still do not know him or have rejected him. This requires of us the courage 'to reach all the "peripheries" in need of the light of the Gospel' (Evangelii gaudium, n. 20). Neither our weaknesses, nor our sins, nor the many obstacles that are placed in the way of witnessing and proclaiming the Gospel can hold us back. The experience of an encounter with the Lord is what spurs us on and gives us the joy of announcing him to all peoples."

*Yours in Christ,
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Words from the Chair

This Winter Season, Dr. Christine Wood, announces the launch of CIAN's new website and calls for membership renewals. This issue includes many helpful articles and webinars for the catechetical and pastoral dimensions of your parish RCIA process.

[Find Out More](#)

Launch of New CIAN Website & Call for Membership Renewals

We are pleased to announce that CIAN has launched its new attractive website, which we hope is easy to navigate, and full of helpful resources for RCIA teams. Most of the materials will be accessible only in the Members Area so memberships must be renewed for access. Click 'Read more...' below to become a member.

[Read More](#)



The Task of Catechesis in the RCIA Process

Dr. Carmel Suart explains the importance and changing dynamics of catechesis through the RCIA process. Initially, catechesis aims at facilitating a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Later catechesis deepens this initial encounter, immersing catechumens and candidates into the life of the parish, so they can participate in the diversity of Church life and the mystery of Christ.

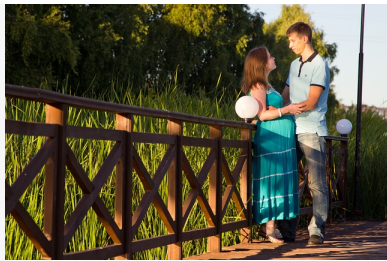
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From Shinto to Saint: Venerable Satoko Kitahara

Br. Bernard Fonkalsrud OFM Conv. writes about Ven. Satoko Kitahara, a young Japanese woman who converted from Shintoism to Christianity and was baptised at age 20 in 1949. Her story as a neophyte will inspire many who take the path to follow Christ through the RCIA process.

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The Difference between Contraception and Natural Family Planning

Dr. Donald Asci contrasts Contraception with Natural Family Planning using Pope John Paul II's theology of the body. This useful explanation of human sexuality is helpful for catechists when presenting catechumens with God's plan for married life and love. This is the beginning of a series of articles on Applied Theology of the Body.

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NCE's New Helpful Resources

Sharon Brewer introduces us to some new resources published by the National Centre for Evangelisation: the Evangelise Plus (video platform), the new website – Becoming Catholic – and a new book – Discovering God and what it means to be Catholic.

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CIAN's Webinar Series

CIAN continues to offer its webinar series. The recording of the March webinar entitled, "Holy Week and Mystagogy," is available in the Members Area. The June webinar for Diocesan RCIA Coordinators, entitled, "Steps to begin the RCIA Process for New Enquirers," will soon be available for Members in the Members Area.

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