



Christian Initiation Australia Network



Spring 2023 Network News

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Spring edition of Network News. Our new website has been active for a few months now and we are calling for membership renewals ([click here](#)). We are hosting another webinar for members on Hot Button Ethical Topics in the RCIA on Thursday November 16th so be sure to renew soon! Membership will give you access to all the

Network News articles, recordings of past webinars, and lots of resources to help your RCIA ministry.

Inside this edition of Network News you can find an article about the Rite of Acceptance. Simon Yeak explains how this major rite of RCIA fits into the faith journey of our enquirers and catechumens.

Br. Bernard presents the story about St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first native American saint. Her story is a wonderful story of the inculturation of the Gospel by French missionaries in North America.

The Applied Theology of the Body series continues with an article that lays the foundations to help answer the curly questions about the Catholic understanding of human sexuality. As we approach November, the month of the Holy Souls, I've included an article about the theology of purgatory to help with any difficult questions from enquirers and catechumens. Please email through any conversion stories from your neophytes, or stories from RCIA team members that might encourage others in the ministry. We'd love to hear them! Email: info@ciannetwork.net

Let me close with some words from Pope Francis's Ash Wednesday Address this year, words that continue to resonate during the difficulties that afflict our world:

"Today... invites us to invoke the light of the Spirit upon our individual lives as followers of Christ and on the Church's mission of bringing the consolation of Jesus to the desolation of a world that thirsts for the justice, peace and reconciled unity which are the fruit of the Lord's passover from death to life at Easter.."

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Christine Wood

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[Find Out More](#)

What is the Rite of Acceptance?

Simon Yeak explains the significance of the Rite of Acceptance for our enquirers passing through to the catechumenate. Simon writes that it is analogous to the transition from dating to engagement.

[Read More](#)



The 'Lily of the Mohawk': Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Br. Bernard Fonkalsrud OFM Conv. writes about St. Kateri Tekakwitha, North America's first native Catholic saint. Her story tells of the how an authentic inculturation of the Gospel can lead to the conversion of indigenous peoples to Christ. Through sufferings and persecutions St Kateri's holiness becomes a beacon for our catechumens' journey towards Christ.

[Read More](#)

Catholic Sexual Morality - The Call to Live and Love as Embodied Persons

Dr. Donald Asci explains the foundations of the Catholic perspective on human sexuality which is helpful for catechists when presenting catechumens with God's plan for married life and love.

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Purgatory, God's Ultimate Mercy

With reference to Scripture, Dr. Christine Wood explains the often misunderstood Catholic doctrine of purgatory. Our catechumens are often befuddled by purgatory and seek answers to questions about the afterlife. Dr. Wood provides answers that will help in your discussions with catechumens.

[Read More](#)

CIAN's Upcoming Webinar: Call for Registrations

CIAN continues to offer its webinar series with Hot Button Ethical Topics in the RCIA. Please register soon as the webinar will be held on Thursday 16th November at 7pm AEDT via zoom.

[Read More](#)



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CIAN Executive Members Present:

HOT BUTTON ETHICAL TOPICS FOR THE RCIA

Hosted by Br Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud OFM

With presenters, Simon Yeak & Dr. Christine Wood

Thursday 16 November | 7pm - 8:15pm AEDT

Register via the following URL (Zoom link will be sent to you once registered): <https://www.cianetwork.net/event/hot-button-ethical-topics-for-the-rcia>

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