

Outline and purpose of each phases of the Rite of Christian Adults (RCIA)—for a Person who is already a baptized Christian

<i>Name of Phase</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
<i>Inquiry</i>	Orientation to the Catholic Church	No fixed duration	Opportunity to grow in relationship to the Catholic Church & her people
<i>Rite of Welcome</i>	To formally welcome the candidates as they make a declaration of intent to enter more fully into the life of the Church	<i>Celebrated several times a year</i>	<i>To surround the candidate with special care and support</i>
<i>Preparation and Instruction Faith Foundations</i>	Different forms of prayer, Presentations, discussions, faith sharing, service which help to introduce the candidates to the community and the community to the candidates	Time will vary according to background and circumstances	To prepare the candidates for their fuller life in the church through worship, daily life and service. To prepare the candidates through doctrinal and spiritual formation
<i>Call to Continuing Conversion</i>	<i>After a Rite of Sending at St. Cyril the candidates are sent forth for recognition by the bishop</i>	<i>Usually the first Sunday of Lent in a regional celebration—if Rites are combined with those of persons not baptized</i>	<i>The Bishop represents the universal church in recognizing the candidates. The Bishop is a sign of unity and embodies the apostolic succession</i>
<i>Purification and Enlightenment</i>	Time of reflection	Usually coincides with Lent(40 days before Easter)	To purify what is sinful through the action of the Spirit and to receive his inspiration and guidance towards what is good
<i>Sacraments of Initiation</i>	Profession of Faith and Reception into full communion with the Church, Confirmation & Eucharist	Frequently is celebrated at Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil with those to be baptized, but the celebration may take place whenever the candidate is found ready	To celebrate the reception into communion, confirmation and Eucharist so that the candidates may take his or her place amongst the Body of Christ
<i>Mystagogy</i>	Time of more intense reflection upon the mysteries celebrated	Usually runs from Easter through Pentecost with regular gatherings and monthly Masses together thereafter	To deepen their appreciation of the richness of God's grace To integrate the candidates into the community