

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Are forms needed for OCIA?** Yes. Here are the diocesan OCIA forms:
 - [OCIA Intake Checklist](#)
 - [OCIA-Children Intake Form](#)
 - [OCIA Intake Form](#)
 - [OCIA Previous Marriage Form](#)
2. **Can the leader of OCIA fill out the OCIA Intake Form?** Maybe. Only clergy and qualified lay leaders may fill out the OCIA intake forms. The baptismal and marriage information on this form needs to be critically looked at, hence the requirement that only qualified personnel who are trained in those areas can fill it out.
3. **Is there a book on OCIA?** Yes. It is called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)
4. **Can fully initiated Catholics join OCIA?** In general, no, fully initiated Catholics should not be placed in OCIA sessions. Offer an OCIA-like alternative for them...a Catholic refresher class of sorts.
5. **Does the diocese provide training on the OCIA process?** Yes we do. Please contact Gary Niemerg, the Director of Catechesis, Evangelization and Youth Ministry if you are interested.
6. **Do the already baptized Christians in OCIA sign the Book of the Elect?** No. The enrollment of names in the Rite of Election is **only for the unbaptized**. This is the Bishop's promise that those persons will be initiated into Christ and the Church at the next Easter Vigil. Baptized candidates, by their baptism, are already initiated into Christ so they are not included in the book. However, their desire to complete their initiation, or to join into the full communion of the Catholic Church, is recognized at the Rite of Election. (OCIA 454)
7. **Should unbaptized children in OCIA receive all three sacraments of initiation, or should their Confirmation be delayed until 8th Grade?** Yes, they should receive all three sacraments of initiation. Once children have reached the age of reason (approx. 7 years old), they are no longer candidates for The Order of Baptism of Children. They are considered adults and should use the OCIA process.
8. **What about a child, say a 4th Grader, who was baptized Catholic as an infant, but didn't receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in 2nd grade? Should he/she receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the OCIA for Children process or wait until the approved age/grade dictated by the diocese which is currently 8th Grade?** We suggest having them wait until 8th grade to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. However, parents can ask for their child to receive the sacrament earlier. It is up to the pastor to grant this permission, with Bishop Golka's approval, for an earlier reception of the sacrament.
9. **Is there really a Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC)?** No. The reception of children who have reached catechetical age (age of reason, approx. 7 years old) into the Catholic Church follows the same process as for the adults. There is no separate process for children age 7 or older. Concerning which rite(s) to use, they are considered adults and should follow the OCIA process, not the infant baptism process. It is actually a part of the OCIA found in "Part II: Rites for Particular Circumstances." So technically, it should be called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults for Children, or OCIA for Children. However, even though they are considered "adults" with regard to which process to use, they need age-appropriate catechesis.

10. **How long should the OCIA process last?** It depends. For already baptized and catechized individuals, it could be weeks. For others who are unbaptized and uncatechized, it could be years (OCIA 7). This is where it is important to get to know your OCIA participants well in the initial interview and by spending time with them outside of the classroom sessions. Where are they in their faith journey? The OCIA book gives you guidance on what to look for, what are the indications, that they are ready to advance in the process (i.e. Rite for Entrance and Rite of Election).
11. **What are some recommended materials/programs out there for OCIA?**
- The Association of Catechumenal Ministry (ACM) materials are top notch and once purchased, copies of their extensive computer files can be printed for life for free! <https://acmrcia.org>
 - The Symbolon program put out by the Augustine Institute is also very good. <https://watch.formed.org/symbolon-the-catholic-faith-explained>
 - There are many great supplements to either of the programs mentioned above. They include Bishop Barron's "Catholicism" series and his Word on Fire website, lots of great offerings on FORMED.org, and many others. Feel free to contact Gary Niemerg for more information on these and other programs.
 - Of course, every OCIA participant should have a Bible and a Catechism of the Catholic Church. Recommended Bibles are either the New American edition (translation used at Mass) or the Revised Standard Version-Catholic Edition (RSV-CE). There are other good translations as well. The best Bible is the one that they will actually read!