

## **A GLOSSARY of TERMS for INITIATION**

Catechesis	The instruction and spiritual formation of catechumens and those persons already baptized who seek full communion with the Catholic Church.
Catechumenate	The process of a determined period of time by which the Church helps unbaptized adults to prepare for the sacraments of Christian Initiation.
Catechumen	A person admitted to the catechumenate, seeking formal entry into the Church.
Competentes	Those catechumens who have been elected and admitted into the Lenten period of final preparation for the sacraments of initiation (synonym: Elect).
Elect	A catechumen who has been found worthy by the community of faith and/or its representatives to take part in the next celebration of the sacraments of initiation (synonym: Competentes)
Election	The process of selecting those catechumens who are considered ready and worthy to take part in the next celebration of the sacraments of initiation; the celebration (ordinarily the First Sunday of Lent) wherein the Bishop or his delegate ratifies the selection process of the parish.
Enlightenment	The period of Lent when the elect are involved in the final stage of preparation for celebrating the rites of initiation (synonym: illumination).
Enrollment	The rite of celebrating the inscription into the “book of the elect” of the names of those catechumens elected to take part in the next celebration of the sacraments of initiation (synonym: inscription).
Ephpheta	The rite in which the celebrant touches the ears and the mouth of the elect and prays that they are open to hear and proclaim the word of God in faith.
Exorcisms	Prayers said over the elect during the scrutinies that they might be delivered from the power of evil and falsehood and receive the gifts of the Lord, especially the Spirit.
Evangelization	The activity of the Church whereby a first proclamation of the Gospel is made to those persons inquiring about the faith.
Godparent (s)	The person(s) selected by the elect, with the consent of the pastor, to accompany them during the rites of initiation.
Illumination	That time, ordinarily coinciding with the Lenten season, devoted to the final preparation for the celebration of the sacraments of initiation (synonym: purification, enlightenment).
Immersion	A method of baptism in which the candidate is submerged either entirely or partially in the baptismal water.
Infusion	A method of baptism in which the baptismal water is poured over the head of the candidate.
Initiation	The process by which a person enters the faith life of the Church – from the catechumenate through the normally continuous celebration of the entrance rite of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist.
Inquirers	Persons who sincerely seek to learn about the faith of the Church.
Inscription	The rite in which the names of the elect who are to take part in the next celebration of the sacraments of initiation are written in the register, “the book of the elect.”
Mystagogia	The postbaptismal catechesis given to the newly baptized during the Easter season, wherein the neophyte and the local Church share the meaning of the initiatory mysteries and experience.
Neophyte	A newly baptized person who has completed the final period of Christian initiation: the postbaptismal catechesis (see: mystagogia).
Oil of Catechumens	The oil, blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass (or for pastoral reasons by the priest before the anointing) to be used in the anointing of the catechumens during the process of initiation.

## A GLOSSARY of TERMS for INITIATION

Periods	Times of investigation and maturation marking the initiation process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Period of evangelization and precatechumenate</li> <li>2. The period of catechumenate</li> <li>3. The period of purification and enlightenment</li> <li>4. The period of postbaptismal catechesis.</li> </ol>
Postbaptismal	After baptism.
Purification	That period which normally falls in lent and begins with the rite of election, when the elect and the local community give themselves to spiritual recollection in preparation for the feast of Easter and the sacraments of initiation.
Register	The book in which the names of the catechumens, along with those of the minister and sponsors and the date and place of admission into the catechumenate, are recorded.
Rites of Purification	The rites in which the Church hands on to the elect its ancient document of faith and prayer: The profession of faith or the creed (symbol) and the Lord's Prayer.
Rites of Transition	Various rites that may be used between the stages of the catechumenate, even, if circumstances demand, anticipating those ordinarily celebrated with the elect.
Scrutiny	Rites celebrated by the priest or deacon with the elect on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, petitioning for the spirit of repentance and understanding of sin and the true freedom of the children of God.
Sponsors	Confirmation Sponsor: Those people chosen by the candidate to accompany the candidates when they seek admission into the catechumenate and remain with them to oversee their progress during the catechumenate process until the rite of election. They may also be selected as godparents. Parish Sponsor: Those people chosen by the parish to accompany the candidates when they seek admission into the catechumenate and remain with them to oversee their progress during the catechumenate process thru the Mystagogia phase.
Stages	The steps through which the catechumen moves forward to full initiation. The process of adult initiation includes three stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When the Church accepts a person as a catechumen</li> <li>2. When a person becomes one of the "elect" and begins the more immediate preparation for the sacraments of initiation.</li> <li>3. When a person receives the sacraments of initiation.</li> </ol>
Sympathizer	Those people seeking to know more about the Christian faith (synonym: inquirers).