

Discerning the Appropriate Path Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (includes children of catechetical age)

<i>Who</i>	Unbaptized with no Christian affiliation	Unbaptized but exhibits Christian practice	Baptized Christian uncatechized (little religious formation)	Baptized Christian with significant religious formation	Baptized Catholic uncatechized (little or no previous religious formation)	Baptized Catholic who has celebrated First Communion
Path Ordinary path	Extended process, using all the rites in Part I (75, US - NS 6)	Shorter process, depending on formation level, Part II-2 (US331ff / CAN307ff)	Extended process, using all rites in Part II-4 + 5 (US 400, US - NS 30; CAN 376)	Simple process; Rite of Reception Part II-5 (US 473 / CAN 387)	Extended process, using all rites in Part II-4 (US 400 / CAN 376)	Specific process: Rite of Confirmation
Alternative path	Shorter process depending on formation level, Part II-2 (US331ff / CAN307ff)	Extended process, use all the rites in Part I (75, US - NS 6)	Shorter process, adapted rites Part II - 4 +5 (US 400 / CAN 376) (US 473 / CAN 387)	Shorter process, adapted rites Part II - 4 +5 (US 400 / CAN 376) (US 473 / CAN 387)	Shorter process, adapted rites Part II - 4 (US 400 / CAN 376) (US 473 / CAN 387)	Shorter process, adapted rites Part II - 4 (US 400 / CAN 376) (US 473 / CAN 387)
Extraordinary path			Simple process; Rite of Reception Part II - 5 (US 473 / CAN 387)			May need a process designed for specific faith journey, depending on formation level

People of all ages enter our church doors bearing a variety of stories. Through careful listening, we learn if they are baptized or unbaptized, a baptized Christian who has never attended church, a baptized Catholic with no religious upbringing, or countless other combinations of life circumstances. To honor each person's place in life, and to invite each into the journey of faith with us, we must discern how best to apply the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation to meet individual needs. This discernment process applies both to adults and to children of catechetical age.

Note: There is no process on the chart for fully initiated Catholics who seek a return to the Church after a period of absence. The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* is not an appropriate process for welcoming them home. The Rite is intended only for those not already fully initiated into the Church.

Refer to: Oakham, Ron. "Sorting Fish: A Task at the Beginning." *Catechumenate: A Journal of Christian Initiation*, May 1989, pg. 13-19.
Senseman, Rita Burns. "Sorting Fish in the '90s." *Catechumenate: A Journal of Christian Initiation*, July 1998, pg. 2 - 11.