

Signs of God at Work in the Inquirer

Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate is a time, of no fixed duration or structure, for inquiry and introduction to Gospel values, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith.

RCIA Part I: See "Outline for Christian Initiation of Adults" the page previous to #36:

Precatechumenate

Any reception or service of welcome or prayer for inquirers at the beginning or during a precatechumenate (or in an earlier period of evangelization) must be entirely informal. Such meetings should take into account that the inquirers are not yet catechumens and that the rite of acceptance into the order of catechumens, intended for those who have been converted from unbelief and have initial faith, may not be anticipated.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/National Statutes for the Catechumenate: Precatechumenate 1

What are some signs of God at work in the inquirer?

Basic Knowledge

- Basic knowledge of and relationship with scripture
Beginning ability to read scripture, feel comfortable with it, and apply it to personal situations
- Curiosity about their faith and the Church
- Satisfaction at having answered basic questions about Christianity and Catholicism in the areas of Christology, personal relationship with God, death and after life, liturgy, building up the church, authority, morality, sacraments, social justice, ecclesiology
- Evidence that they are engaged in personal spiritual growth through whatever means are available to them: reading, art, community

Participation in the group

- Makes contributions that show thought
- Willingness to be flexible in relationship to changing circumstances in the group and differing beliefs of others
- Commitment to the community in the form of attendance at inquiry sessions and a growing concern for and relationship with others in the group

Self knowledge and personal relationship with God

- Gives evidence of initial conversion.
Acknowledgement of dependence on God, willingness to listen to and attempt to integrate Gospel values into their lives
- Evidence of basic relationship with God.
Developing prayer life, turning to God with their difficulties, gratitude for gifts given
- Evidence of a developing prayer life
Inquirers talk about personal prayer experiences at meetings
- Clarity on important issues of faith and willingness to discuss these issues in community

Relationship to the larger Church

- Willingness to pursue annulments
- willingness to explore stewardship: to give service to the community on their own or with a sponsor, to give monetary support within their means
- Willingness to follow the laws of fasting
- Prepared to participate in the Mass on a weekly basis and holy days

A time to observe desire, motivation and readiness as well as any doubts, questions or difficulties

Louise Ridsdale: Information adapted from Signs of Readiness