

PAGELLA OF FACULTIES

III. Catechesis for Baptism

- A. Catechesis for baptism is directed primarily to adults, that is, either to adult catechumens or to parents and sponsors of children about to be baptized. According to the RCIA, catechumens proceed through the stages of evangelization, catechumenate, purification and enlightenment, and post-baptismal catechesis. This process also provides an invaluable guide for the catechesis of parents and godparents (National Catholic Directory, # 117).
- Catechetical*
- B. Baptismal catechesis centers on God's love, on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, on the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church, on incorporation into Christ and the Christian community, and on the cleansing of original and personal sin. It should reflect on all life as a gift from God, on our being created to the image and likeness of God and on the blessing we have in sharing with God and with one another.
- C. Parents should be helped 1) to nourish their own faith life, so they can support the gift of faith they share with their children, 2) to see baptism as a sacrament of initiation, a first step in a journey of faith made with other members of the Church, and 3) to understand something of the baptismal ritual and symbols: water as life-giving and cleansing, oil as strengthening and healing, light as driving out darkness, and the community as the setting in which Christ is present.
- D. Parents, the first and primary teachers of their children in the way of faith, need to be supported by their parish community in their responsibility to provide ongoing catechesis to their children. This support is especially, though not exclusively, needed when parents are preparing their children for the reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, and Reconciliation.