



Christian Initiation Process
Recommendations for Retreats
January, 2010



Introduction



As you know one of the components for our process includes a spiritual dimension, which encourages and teaches the individuals forms of prayer, development of a spiritual life, and retreat experiences. During the Lenten period it is an excellent time for this continued formation and development as we prepare for the Triduum and Easter.

A special retreat for all those who are preparing to enter the Church should be experienced close to the Triduum. This can be done the week before during Lent. This is not a time for heavy catechesis or to try to add in all the formation that was not completed during their catechetical sessions. Hopefully if you have done a good job providing a foundation for their catechesis the newly confirmed will be lifelong faith learners. Since the process of Christian Initiation is a tremendous opportunity for continued evangelization within the life of the person, the following packet includes suggestions for retreats if you do not have something already in place for your candidates and elect.

- I. ***Living Christ Retreat***, This retreat format is designed as a parish retreat. It is excellent format for integration of the candidates and elect into the life of the community. <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/lichrefothfr.html>
When you go to the link you can purchase the online retreat for very little and then have permission for all the downloads, copies, etc. for your parish. It costs less than \$10.
- II. ***Journey of Faith Retreat*** by Liguori; formats for teens, children, and adults. (English and Spanish available)
- III. ***Focus on a Saint Retreat*** by St. Anthony Messenger Press
 - a. Suggestion: A Retreat with Luke, Stepping Out on the Word of God, by Barbara E. Reid, O.P.
 - b. Suggestion: A Retreat with Therese of Lisieux, Loving Our Way Into Holiness by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard, O.D.C.
- IV. ***Enter the Rose Unfolding the Mystery*** – Resource Book for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults by Miriam Malone, SNJM C.2002. It offers a variety of retreat opportunities for the various stages of the initiation process. Each retreat has four components: the context, the Word of God, sacred space, and living the rite. An audio CD includes formational input for the facilitator and graphics for the reproducible handouts included.

The Cursillo, ACTS Retreat, Charismatic Retreats are designed for reawakening the faith and moves the individual into ongoing support and presence in their parish whether they are active or non active Catholics. However, these retreats are designed more specifically for Catholics, not those non Catholics on the journey into the Church.

These are only suggestions. If you need additional assistance the Office of Faith Formation is available to provide resources and give you contact information to acquire the necessary materials. You need to plan calendar dates for retreat experiences for your candidates and elect to provide optimum opportunities for spiritual formation during their initiation process.

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