



BECOMING CATHOLIC - PART 2

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Picking up from last week's article, those wishing Baptism along with those wishing to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church continue to study and learn more about our Faith.

During this time, those wishing Baptism are called Catechumens and receive anointings, blessings and other rituals known as scrutinies on certain Sundays of Lent. These take place at Mass with the support of the Christian community. Also at this time, when the Team believes that the Catechumens are ready to make a faith commitment to Jesus in the Catholic Church, they are invited to attend the **RITE OF ELECTION**. This is usually done in a large setting with others from the local Diocese. This normally takes place on the First Sunday of Lent when the Catechumens formally request entry into the Catholic Church so they may receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. They formally enter their names in a special book before one of the Bishops of the Diocese. Going forward, they are now referred to as the **ELECT**.

These final weeks are referred to as a **PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT** which leads up to the Easter Vigil. Prayer and continued study continue along with the prayers of the local parish community, all leading up to the beautiful celebration of the Easter Vigil where they will become fully initiated along with the candidates needing Confirmation and Eucharist. This experience is the highlight of the year for parishes as they welcome new Catholics into the fold!

Following this celebration, the newly formed continue to meet and learn more about their Faith and how to live it out. This time frame is called **MYSTAGOGY**. At this time, they learn about the mission of the Church and how they will live out their baptismal call.

Please continue to pray for those among us in our OCIA group this year, and join us all at the Easter Vigil on April 4th.

Have a prayerful, blessed week ahead!