



# UNDERSTANDING THE NEW RCIA SYLLABUS

Addressing contemporary issues with a new approach

The need for a new RCIA syllabus arises from several significant pastoral, doctrinal, and societal shifts that have occurred over the last few decades.

## Reasons for the Update

- **Age of the Previous Syllabus:** The previous syllabus, 'Our Journey together in Faith,' was introduced in 1992. A new syllabus is needed with advent of CCC.
- **Integration with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC, 1992):** The new syllabus references the four pillars of the CCC: The Creed, The Sacraments, The Moral Life, and Prayer.
- **Adopting a 'Synodal Way':** Emphasis on accompaniment, dialogue, mutual support, communal discernment, modeled after the Emmaus journey.
- **A Clearer Formation Process:** The four stage RCIA process(Evangelization/Pre Catechumenate- Catechumenate- Purification/ Enlightenment- Mystagogy) is explained as “Why be a Catholic?”- “How to become & live as a Catholic?”-”How to deepen your life as a Catholic?”- “How to become a Missionary Catholic?”.
- **Moving Beyond 'Head Knowledge':** Focus on personalizing faith, holistic approach, spiritual preparations, retreats, and study of Saints.
- **Addressing Contemporary Issues:** Digital culture, same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+ issues, secularization, globalization, religious pluralism.
- **Formation of Missionary Disciples:** Transforming candidates into Missionary Disciples to share the light of Christ.
- **Effective Pedagogy for Adults:** Use of Andragogy, experiential learning, real-world application, and balanced mentorship with male and female Ecclesial Communicators.

The ultimate aim is a *transformative encounter with Jesus*, the center of all Catholic teaching.

## In Summary

This document outlines the key motivations and updates within the new RCIA syllabus. The revisions address contemporary issues and pedagogical best practices, aiming for a transformative encounter with Jesus and the formation of missionary disciples.