



GUIDELINES FOR ALL RCIA EVANGELIZING CATECHISTS (ECs) IN CONDUCTING AN RCIA SESSION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is not merely a teaching programme but a process of conversion and formation into missionary discipleship. Therefore, every RCIA session must reflect the Church's vision of a baptismal formation.

All RCIA Catechists (ECs) are expected to adhere to the following standards when conducting a session:

1. Depend on the Holy Spirit

Every session must begin with prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit as the primary helper/advocate. Catechists are collaborators in God's work, not merely instructors of content.

2. Formation through spiritual accompaniment.

ECs are expected to adopt an adult-centered approach. They must walk with candidates, listening attentively to their experiences, questions, struggles, and life stories before offering explanations.

RCIA formation is accompaniment, not classroom instruction. Every RCIA candidate will be assigned a gender based Personal Accompanier (PA) who will journey with the candidate during each session through a gender-based group sharing led by their PA and outside the session through one-to-one sharings. These one-to-one sharings with PA are done periodically either through communication through WhatsApp, a phone call, over a cup of coffee/meal or through home visitations.

3. Root Every Session in the Word of God.

The Word of God must form the foundation of each lesson. The Word of God is found in the unity of the three pillars of our Catholic Faith - Written Sacred Scripture (Bible), Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium. Teaching, reflection, prayer, and discussion should be grounded in the Word of God.

4. Prepare Each Session Thoroughly and Intentionally

ECs must prepare beyond reading notes. Preparation includes:

- Understanding what the Church teaches
- Explaining why it matters
- Identifying relevant Scripture
- Anticipating questions and misconceptions
- Connecting doctrine to lived human experience



Well-prepared catechists foster clarity and confidence.

5. Ensure Clear Structure and Purpose

Every session must include:

- Clear aims and objectives
- A logical progression of ideas
- Responsible time management
- A defined spiritual outcome

Adult learners value clarity, direction, and purpose.

6. Facilitate Active Participation

Catechists should not dominate the session. RCIA sessions must include:

- Small group discussions
- Opportunities for sharing
- Reflection on Scripture
- Testimonies and practical applications

Adults learn best when they are actively engaged.

7. Connect Doctrine to Life

Teaching must address real-life realities, including:

- Doubts and objections
- Past wounds
- Cultural challenges
- Moral struggles

Formation becomes transformative when faith is seen as relevant to life.

8. Teach with Authentic Witness

ECs are expected to teach from the heart, not merely from written notes. Personal testimony, when appropriate, strengthens credibility and fosters trust.

Authenticity supports evangelization.



9. Encourage Growth and Perseverance

ECs must reinforce that:

- Faith matures gradually
- Prayer deepens through practice
- Doubts can lead to deeper understanding
- Conversion is a lifelong journey

Candidates should leave encouraged, not discouraged.

10. End with Mission and Commitment

Every session must conclude with a concrete spiritual action. Candidates should be given a specific commitment to practice during the week (e.g., daily prayer, Scripture reading, an act of charity, intentional Sunday Mass participation).

RCIA formation must lead to lived discipleship, not mere intellectual knowledge.

Concluding Principle

An RCIA session is effective not when content is fully covered, but when candidates encounter Christ, grow in understanding, participate actively, and take a concrete step forward in discipleship.