



National Gathering on Christian Initiation™
Summer Virtual Workshops™
Implementing the RCIA
Adapted for Children
2021



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REGISTRATION BOOKLET

English: August 4–5, 2021 • Spanish: August 6–7, 2021

Whether you're a parish leader, an initiation minister, or you work in a diocesan office, you are invited to the **National Gathering on Christian Initiation™ Summer Virtual Workshops™** to explore the theoretical and practical aspects of initiation ministry. Through the interactive Adobe Connect platform, participants will break open the vision of the RCIA as it is adapted for use with children of catechetical age, as well as have opportunities to gather for prayer, a virtual happy hour, and optional free pre-sessions.

"As more and more families are coming to the Church asking for initiation of their older children, now is the time to learn effective implementation strategies for the RCIA with children. At NGCI 2021, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the beauty and vision of initiation for children, as well as practical ideas for how it will work in your parish."

—Rita Burns Senseman
NGCI 2021 Team Member

WWW.NGCI.ORG

Registration

Registration for the National Gathering on Christian Initiation™ Summer Virtual Workshops™ is now open at www.NGCI.org. If you have any questions or would like to register a group of three or more people, please contact us at 800-933-1800 or by emailing orders@ltp.org.

General Registration between Tuesday, April 6, and Sunday, July 25 **\$65 per person**

During the standard registration period, groups (3 or more registered at the same time) will receive a \$5 discount on each registration.

Late Registration between Monday, July 26, and Friday, July 30 **\$80 per person**

Schedule

Optional Pre-Session July 21, 2021: 1:00-2:30 PM ET

All registered participants will be invited to join an optional pre-session on The Vision of the RCIA. This 90-minute session will cover the basics—the principles of initiation ministry, the periods, and the rites. Before attending the August Virtual Workshops, each participant should have a general understanding of Part I of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. A recording of this session will be sent to all participants whether they attend or not. If you are interested in learning more about the vision of the RCIA before the August workshop or the July pre-session, contact us at ngci@ltp.org. Add the date to your calendar now!

DAY ONE August 4, 2021 (Times listed are Eastern Time)

12:00 – 12:30 PM	Tech Test This is the last chance for participants to test their computer to ensure the Adobe Connect meeting software is working properly.
12:30 – 1:00	Gathering We invite you log in early, answer some ice-breaker questions, meet other participants virtually, watch a few videos, and listen to some inspiring music.
1:00 – 1:10	Welcome and Opening Prayer
1:10 – 2:40	Session 1 Five Models of Implementation Each parish will implement this ministry in a different way. In your current situation, which model might work best for your community? Which model will stretch your thinking and invite you out of your comfort zone? Principles for the Catechumenate with Children In this section, we will examine: the four-fold vision of catechumenal formation (RCIA, 75) for children; the celebration of the Rites; spiritual preparation for the Rites; theological reflection after the Rites; and the roles of sponsors, companions, parents, Godparents, and the community.
2:40 – 2:50	Break
2:50 – 3:45	Session 2 Principles for the Catechumenate with Children (continued)
3:45 – 4:00	Q&A and Closing Comments
6:30 – 7:00	Prayer and Reflection
7:00 – 8:00	Virtual Happy Hour

DAY TWO August 5, 2021 (times listed are Eastern Time)

12:00 – 12:45 PM	Optional Sessions Option A: Resources for Ministry Log in early to explore a variety of resources that can be used in your ministry to children and families. A packet of sample pages will be sent to all participants. Option B: Q&A with Presenters and Colleagues Did questions arise from Day #1? Any pastoral obstacles that you would like addressed? Bring your questions and seek the wisdom from fellow participants and presenters.
12:45 – 1:00	Gathering
1:00 – 1:10	Prayer and Announcements
1:10 – 2:25	Session 3 (Breakout Session) The Practical Application of the Initiation Ministry Principles After covering the principles of initiation ministry with children, participants will break out to discuss their practical application in the various models of implementation. This is a time to dream big and break the common mindset of “But I’ve always done it that way.”
2:25 – 2:35	Break
2:35 – 3:50	Session 4 Structuring a Parish Approach or “Program” There will always be questions like How am I supposed to do this? In this session, we will address policies and guidelines, paperwork and administration, team recruitment and formation, colleague support and collaboration, length and discernment, cultural and language considerations, and the use of technology in ministry.
3:50 – 4:00	Q&A and Closing Comments

Other Information

Prerequisites for Attending the NGCI Summer Virtual Workshops™

All participants should have a general understanding of Part 1 of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Our starting point for all conversations will be the vision presented in the RCIA. Therefore, the required text is the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* ritual text.

If you are relatively new to this ministry, have inherited this ministry from another parish leader, or have been administering your “program” through the lens of a religious education school-year model, we invite you to consider one of the following:

- Read chapters 1–7 of *Guide for Adapting the RCIA for Children* (LTP, 2017).
- Watch all the videos included in *Guide for Training Initiation Ministers: An Introduction to the RCIA* (LTP, 2018).
- Read *An Introduction to the RCIA: The Vision of Christian Initiation* (LTP, 2017).

Technology

While some sessions will take place on Zoom, most of our workshops will be held on the Adobe Connect virtual learning platform. So you and your computer will be ready for the event, special technology tests will take place in early August. For more information, see [click here and review this document](#).

Goals of the Gathering

- Participants will deepen their understanding of the Church's vision of the baptismal catechumenate as outlined in Part II.1 of the RCIA ritual text (RCIA adapted for children of catechetical age).
- Participants will examine the roles of the parish community, the family, companions, and sponsors in order to discern best practices for forming and engaging each group throughout the initiation process.
- Participants will explore various models of implementing an RCIA process adapted for children and will develop an initial implementation plan.
- Participants will learn models for effective catechesis and formation of children in the initiation process.

The 2021 NGCI Team

Each year, a different team of presenters works together with an LTP representative to plan the major presentations and breakout sessions of the event. Team members have been invited not only because of their understanding of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and the Church's mission of evangelization, but also because of their vast parish and diocesan experience.



Rita Burns Senseman

Rita Burns Senseman is a catechist who specializes in the Christian initiation of young people. She currently serves as the pastoral associate and director of religious education at St. Benedict Parish in Terre Haute, Indiana. Prior to this position, she served as a team member for the North American Forum on the Catechumenate and as the associate director of the Office of Catechetics/Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Detroit. She holds a master of arts degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame. She is the coauthor of *Guide to Celebrating Christian Initiation with Children* (LTP, 2017), and the author of *Guide to Adapting the RCIA for Children* (LTP, 2017) and *Guía para adaptar el RICA para niños* (LTP, 2019), and several other books and resources.



Sr. Sandra DeMasi, SSJ

Sr. Sandra DeMasi, SSJ, is a Sister of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill-Philadelphia, PA. She serves as pastoral associate for liturgy at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, NJ, and as a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy. Sr. Sandy served for thirteen years as the director of the Office of Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ, and some twenty years as a member of the board of directors of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. During this time, she served as a consultant for the ICEL subcommittee on the Christian Initiation of Older Children. Sr. Sandy has a doctor of ministry degree from the Catholic University of America, and her treatise was titled *The Faith and Formation of Adults Who Bring Children for Baptism: A Plan of Liturgy and Catechesis*.



Michael Ruzicki

Michael Ruzicki is the training and events manager at Liturgy Training Publications and the director of music ministry for St. John Berchmans Parish in Chicago. He is the author of *Guide for Training Initiation Ministers: An Introduction to the RCIA* (LTP, 2018). Previously, he served as a parish pastoral associate and diocesan coordinator of adult and sacramental formation in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Michael is a former team member of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.