



# OCLIA Regional Workshop 1

## Catechetical Methodology

UNLEASH THE GOSPEL



# *Kerygma* (UTG Marker 2.2)

1. The loving plan of God for human beings
2. Sin and its devastating consequences, especially separation from God
3. God's answer to our predicament in the sending of his Son for our salvation
4. The response this gift calls for from every person: to repent of our sins, believe in Jesus and be baptized, so we can be filled with his Holy Spirit and live a new life in his family, the Church



# Testimony

“What difference has the Gospel made in your daily life?”

60 seconds or less



# Directory for Catechesis **179**

“In the journey of catechesis, the principle of *evangelizing by educating and educating by evangelizing* recalls, among other things, that the work of the catechist consists in finding and drawing attention to the signs of God’s action already present in the lives of persons and, by using these as an example, present the Gospel as a transformative power for the whole of existence, to which it will give full meaning.”



# Directory for Catechesis *180*

- “Catechesis is an essentially educational action.”
- Demands fidelity to the word of God and an attention to and interaction with the educational practices of the culture.
- “Pedagogy and didactics in particular enrich the educational process of catechesis.”



# Directory for Catechesis *181*

- “Catechesis must avoid identifying the salvific action of God with human pedagogical action”
- At the same time we must never separate or contrast these processes
- In the Incarnation, fidelity to God and fidelity to humanity are profoundly interrelated
- **“The approach and techniques elaborated by the human sciences have value to the extent to which they place themselves at the service of the transmission and education of the faith.”**
- All contributions from human sciences are interpreted from the perspective of Revelation.



# The Ecclesial Method of Catechesis

*The Mystery We Proclaim*, by Msgr. Francis Kelly

*The Divine Pedagogy – Directory for Catechesis (New Edition) 157-163*

## Preparation

Gal 4:4 – “But when the fullness of time had come...”

## Proclamation

Mk 1:15 – “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.”

## Explanation

I Pet 3:15 – “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope...”

## Application

Col 3:17 – “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

## Celebration

Heb 12:1 – “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”

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Kelly, Francis D. *The Mystery We Proclaim: Catechesis for the Third Millennium*. Eugene, OR: Wipp & Stock, 2007.



# Preparation

*“But when the fullness of time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”*

Gal 4:4-5 RSV2CE

- Every OCIA participant has been led to the catechumenate by the workings of the Holy Spirit.
- As you prepare for a proclamation, allow space to access God’s work on each individual souls.
- Preparation activities can be helpful (examples to come)
- Enter into opening prayer or Celebration of the Word





# Proclamation

*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

Mk 1:15

- Celebration of the Word – let God speak directly to the participants
- Homily or reflection includes Divine Perspectives or “the story” from *Echoing the Mystery* topic groupings.



# Explanation

*“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence...”*

I Pet 3:15

- Faith seeks understanding
- Our level of reasoning should stand up to the world’s level of reasoning
- Use instructional best practices in addition to content presentation



# Application

*“Do you renounce...?”*

*“Do you believe...?”*

*Baptismal Promises OCIA 314-316*

1. What do I renounce as a response to today’s good news?
  - Obedience of faith – make a simple action
2. What good do I begin to practice as a response to today’s good news?
  - Primacy of grace – open myself to God’s work and respond to His inspirations
3. Praise and adoration
  - Thank God for the gift of Salvation and contemplate His goodness



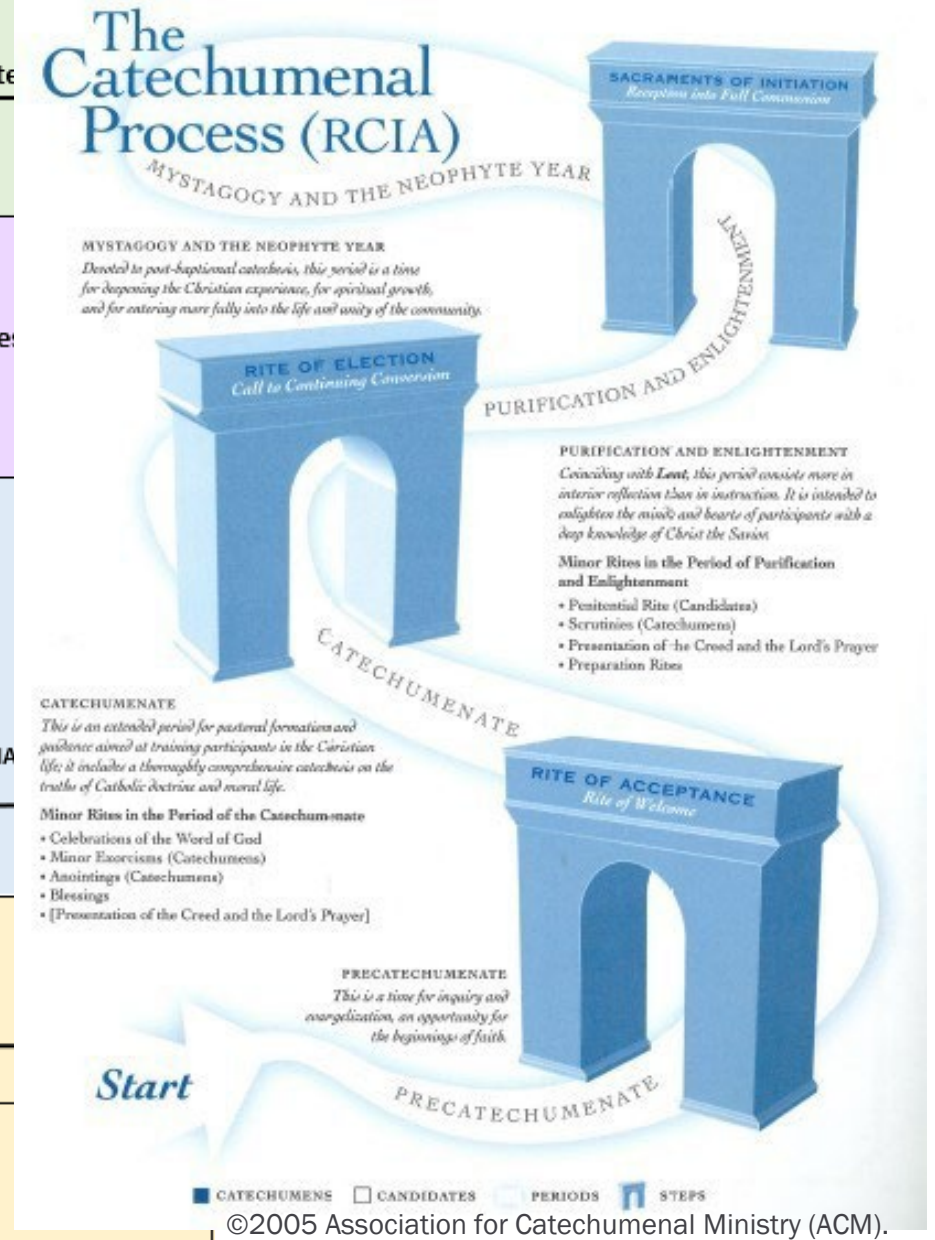
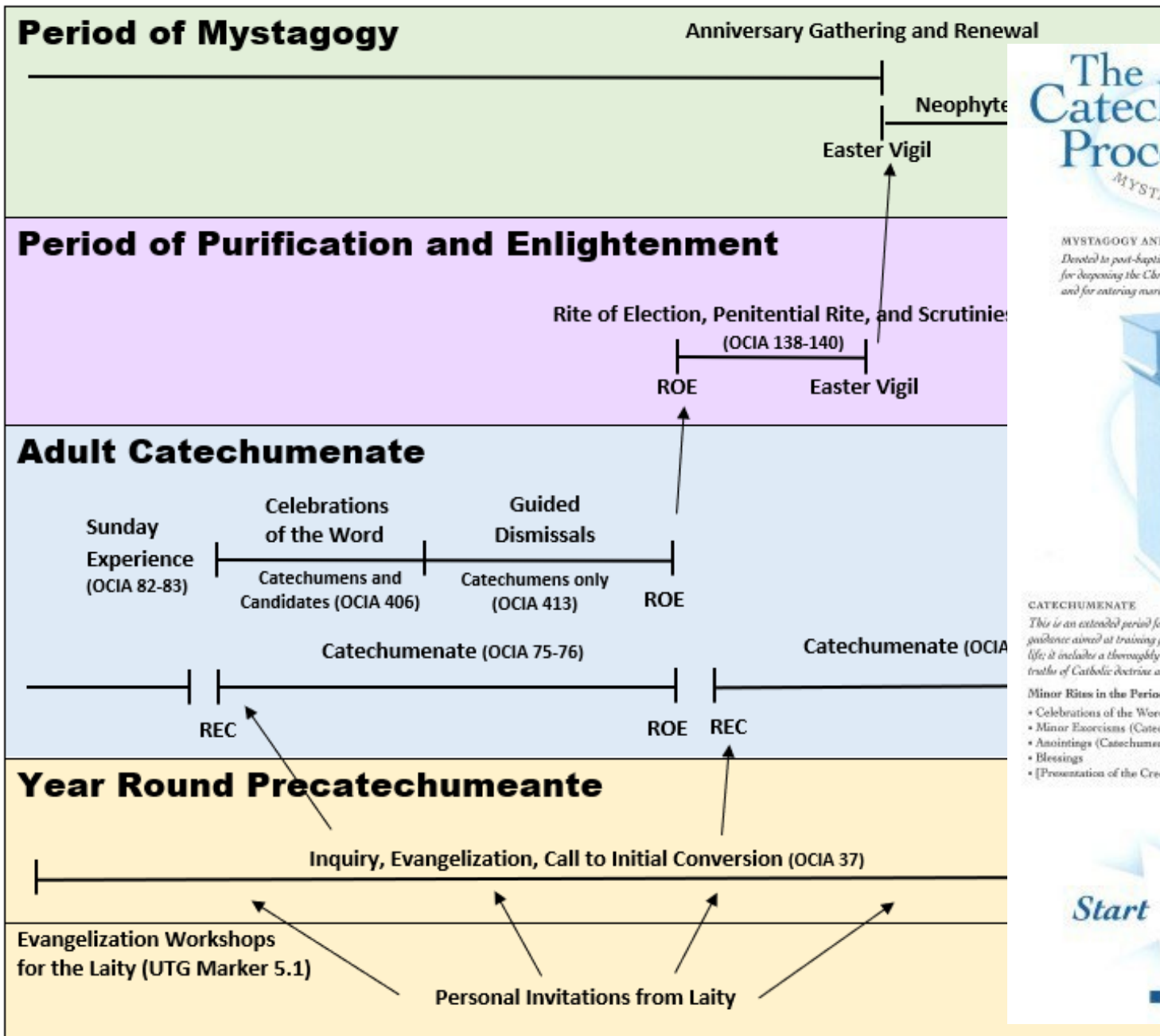
# Celebration

Love of God and love of neighbor

1. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
2. Acts of Charity

Practices:

- Point out where this doctrine is in the Mass and how to participate with mind and heart (SC 11)
- Provide meditations – use the imagination to develop relationships with God and the Saints
- Works of mercy that relieve the suffering of those around you (Mat 25:31-46)




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# Curriculum for the OCIA Catechumenate

## *Echoing the Mystery*

### Topic Groupings for Kerygmatic Christocentric Narratives



**Kerygmatic Christocentric Narratives for OCIA Catechumenate**  
*A spiral curriculum based on "Echoing the Mystery," taught within the context of questions or Christocentric narratives.*

Instructional Resource: *Echoing the Mystery* by Barbara Morgan and Sr. Athanasius Munroe, O.P.  
Story lines = *Echoing the Mystery Divine Perspective*  
Knowledge Targets = *Echoing the Mystery "Essentials"*

**Who is God? Who am I? – Dignity of the Human Person**

**Session 1 – Who is God**

| Echoing the Mystery Topics   |
|--|
| 2. Man's Capacity for God<br>4. The Existence of God<br>11. God the Father<br>5. The Blessed Trinity (6) |

**The Story**

God made us "in His Image" with the unique capacity to be "like Him," to share in His divine nature and to be drawn into intimacy with love. In His infinite goodness, God left in His creation traces and evidences of His existence, power, and wisdom, that men might seek Him, and, reaching out to Him, might find Him. God reveals Himself as Father, "first origin of everything that is made and transcendent authority.

**Knowledge Targets**

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| 1. God is love<br>2. Man alone, in all of visible creation, is made for relationship with God.<br>3. Man searches for God throughout his life.<br>4. The heart is the center of man's spiritual being, the place that he enters into relationship with God.<br>5. God calls men and women to union with Himself.<br>6. The Desire for God is written on every human heart.<br>7. God makes His existence known. |
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Egwdetroit.org/worship



# **Precatecumenate and Catechumenate Curricula available soon on [egwdetroit.org/worship](http://egwdetroit.org/worship).**

Ministry resource page for OCIA

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# FOP Missionary Nature

“The creation of Families will enable clergy and staff to better share their gifts and talents, will allow for greater collaboration and alignment toward mission, will enable better care of the faithful, and will support a more optimal use of our limited human and material resources.” (Family of Parishes Playbook)

## Guiding Questions

1. *Missionary focus – how do we reach the unchurched?*
2. *How can we create a year-round catechumenate and precatechumenate to bring individuals to the Lord at all times?*





# Curriculum – Precatechumenate

- Spiraling kerygmatic curriculum utilizing Sacred Scripture and *kerygma* proclamations.
- 40+ sessions which allow newcomers to hear the Gospel proclaimed, grow in knowledge of the acts of God throughout Divine Revelation, experience invitations to initial conversion, and continue to grow in their conversion.
- Differentiated to level of exposure of the truths of the faith and personal situation



# Catechist Instructional Techniques Learning In Community

- What I know about \_\_\_\_\_, Questions I have about \_\_\_\_\_
- Struggle first, explanation to follow
- Small group discussion with large group share out
- “I used to think... now I think...” reflections
- “Favorite mistake”
- “See... think... wonder...”
- Instructional talk moves



# Instructional Talk-Moves for Leading Engaging Discussion

- God is working in the mind and heart of every individual in your session, involving discussion in your catechesis helps allow the work of the Holy Spirit to lead the session
- Discussion sheds light on preconceptions or misconceptions that need to be clarified, adjusted, or corrected
- Builds Christian Community and Friendship as we hear others' lived experiences of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness
- Discussions should involve observations and objective realities  
- they involve practiced skill on the part of the catechist