

THE JOURNEY BEGINS: INTRODUCTION TO OCIA

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AGENDA

1. Grab some food and drink
2. Introduce yourself
3. Why are you here?



WHAT IS OCIA?

**THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
OF ADULTS**

**A JOURNEY OF ENCOUNTER,
CONVERSION, AND DISCIPLESHIP**

**A TIME TO DISCOVER THE CATHOLIC
FAITH AND GROW IN RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS**

**A PROCESS OF FORMATION, PRAYER,
COMMUNITY, AND DISCERNMENT**

**LEADS TO DEEPER PARTICIPATION IN
THE SACRAMENTS AND LIFE OF THE
CHURCH**



WHO IS OCIA FOR?

CATECHUMENS

UNBAPTIZED ADULTS OR OLDER CHILDREN WHO ARE PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:
BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION , EUCHARIST

CANDIDATES

BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS WHO ARE PREPARING TO ENTER INTO **FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** THROUGH
CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST.

CATHOLICS COMPLETING THEIR SACRAMENTS

BAPTIZED CATHOLICS WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ONE OR MORE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION, SUCH AS
CONFIRMATION OR EUCHARIST, MAY PARTICIPATE IN A FORMATION PROCESS APPROPRIATE TO THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.



THE HISTORY OF OCIA

The Early Church (1st-3rd)

From the beginning, becoming a Christian was understood as a process of conversion, not simply a decision or an intellectual course.

Didache, Ch. 7

Now concerning baptism, baptize as follows: after you have reviewed all these things, baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in running water. But if you have no running water, then baptize in some other water... But if you have neither, then pour water on the head three times in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit



THE HISTORY OF OCIA

The 3rd Century: A More Developed Process

This was viewed as a school of Christian living. Catechumens were not merely learning what Catholics believe; they were learning how Christians live.

The Apostolic Tradition, Hippolytus of Rome (c. 200)

Initial Evaluation

3 year catechumenate

Final Examination

Acceptance

Reception of the Sacraments



THE HISTORY OF OCIA

The 4th Century: The Golden Age of the Catechumenate

During this period, the Church increasingly connected initiation to the liturgical year, especially Lent and Easter. Candidates underwent increasingly intense preparation during Lent and received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

St. Augustine, On Catechizing the Uninstructed (c. 400)

You have requested me, brother Deogratias, to send you in writing something which might be of service to you in the matter of catechizing the uninstructed...



THE HISTORY OF OCIA

The Decline of the Ancient Catechumenate

As infant Baptism became the ordinary practice of Christian families, particularly from the 5th century onward, the elaborate adult catechumenate gradually became less prominent in many parts of the Church.

Baptism was administered by priests and Confirmation was retained by the bishops to be done during their temporal visits.



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THE HISTORY OF OCIA

Vatican II: Restoring the Catechumenate

The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) recognized the value of the ancient practice and called for its restoration.

1972: The Rite Is Restored

It restored a process involving distinct periods, stages, rites, and the final celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation.

The restored process includes: **Evangelization & Precatechumenate; Catechumenate; Purification & Enlightenment; Mystagogy**

4 STAGES OF OCIA

PRECATECHUMENATE

CATECHUMENATE

PURIFICATION AND

ENLIGHTENMENT

MYSTAGOGY

WHAT TO EXPECT

CONVERSATIONS

BAPTISMAL VERIFICATION

SPONSORS AND GODPARENTS

CONFIRMATION NAME (SAINT)

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, seen from the side, holding an open book. The person is positioned against a bright, hazy sunset or sunrise sky, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect. The person's hair is visible, and their hand is holding the book open. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

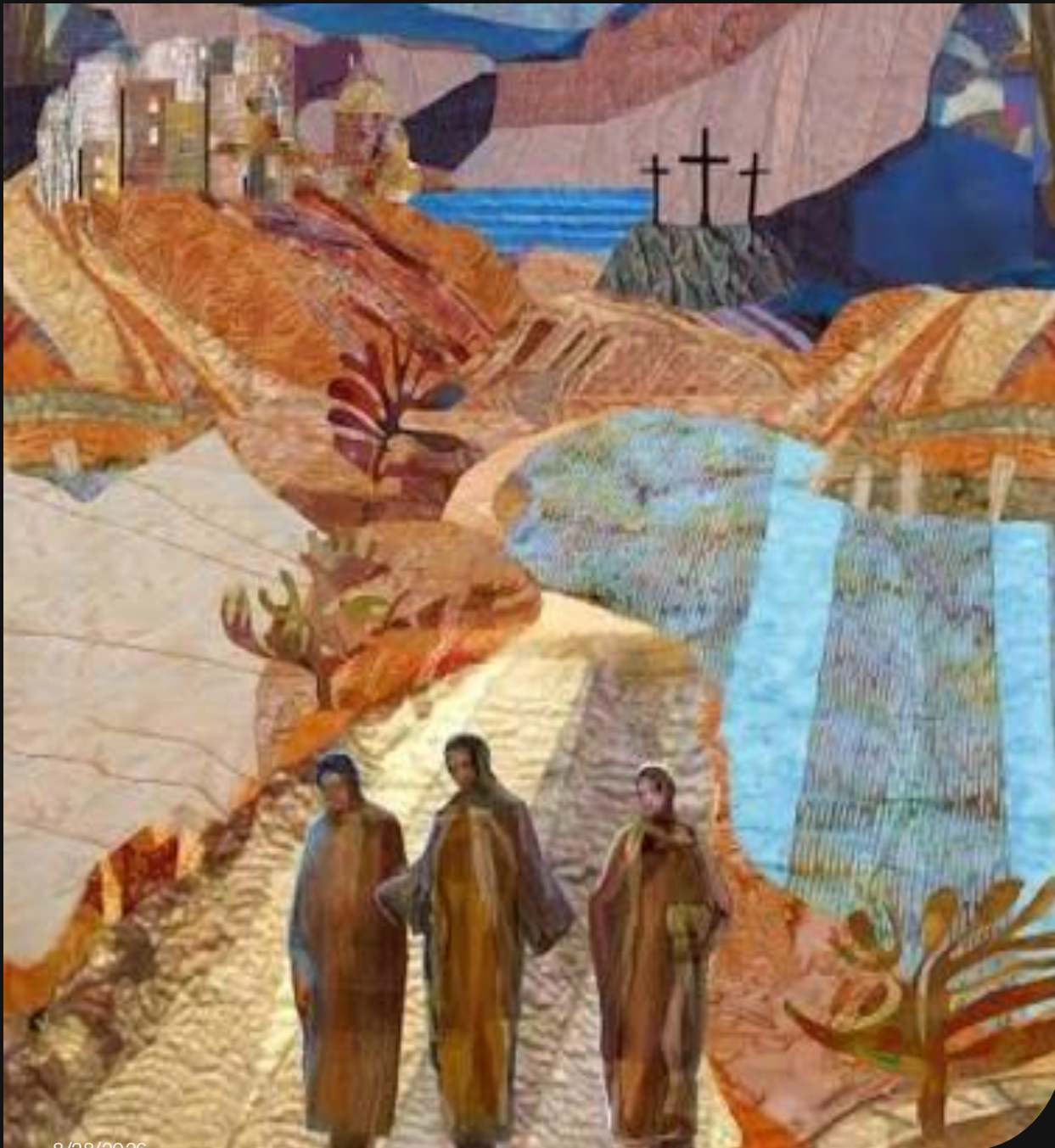
WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA?

"DIVINE READING"

1. LECTIO
2. MEDITATIO
3. ORATIO
4. CONTEMPLATIO

ST. BENEDICT (5-6TH C.)

LUKE 24: 13- 35



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QUESTIONS:

1. THE DISCIPLES WERE WALKING AWAY FROM JERUSALEM WHEN JESUS CAME ALONGSIDE THEM, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM. WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN YOUR OWN JOURNEY RIGHT NOW, AND WHERE MIGHT JESUS BE WALKING ALONGSIDE YOU – EVEN IF YOU DON'T ALWAYS RECOGNIZE HIM?

2. THE DISCIPLES' HEARTS BEGAN TO BURN AS JESUS OPENED THE SCRIPTURES TO THEM. AS YOU BEGIN THIS OCIA JOURNEY, WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO DISCOVER, UNDERSTAND, OR EXPERIENCE ABOUT JESUS AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH?