

# Reflections

MY  
JOURNEY  
OF CHRISTIAN  
INITIATION



By Joan McKamey. Design by Jeff McCall. Images: Shutterstock.

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## THE JOURNEY *of* CHRISTIAN INITIATION

**T**he *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) is a process of formation for those desiring to learn more about the Catholic faith. Participants may experience God calling them to membership in the Catholic Church.

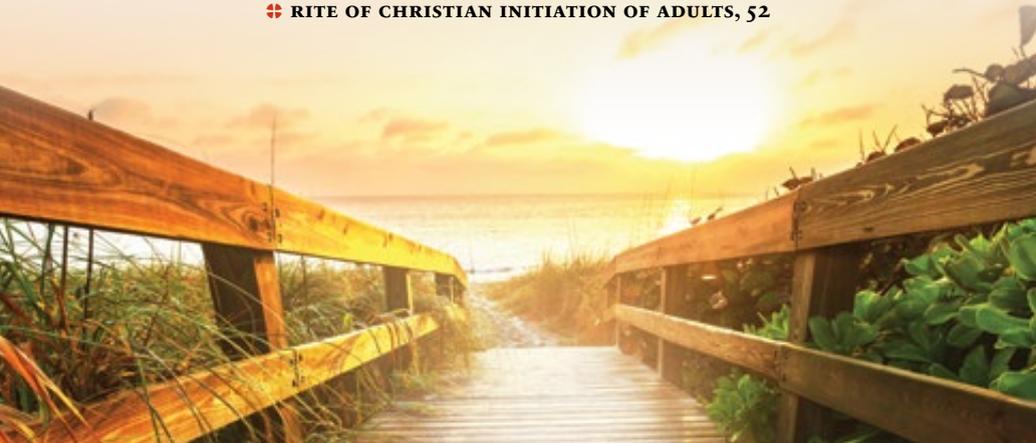
This formation process prepares participants for ritual celebrations (rites) that mark stages along the journey of Christian Initiation. On this journey are learners (catechumens) who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Catechumens may share this journey with baptized Christians (candidates) who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation and the Eucharist and reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

You are responding to a call from God to journey in faith, to follow Christ, and to believe in his saving power. May this reflection booklet be a keepsake record of your thoughts and prayers as you travel along this part of your faith journey.

Initiation is a beginning. What you will learn and experience during this process of initiation will serve as a bridge from your past to your future life in Christ as celebrated in the Catholic Church. Embrace your journey to this point. Even poor choices and difficult experiences have contributed to the person you are today.

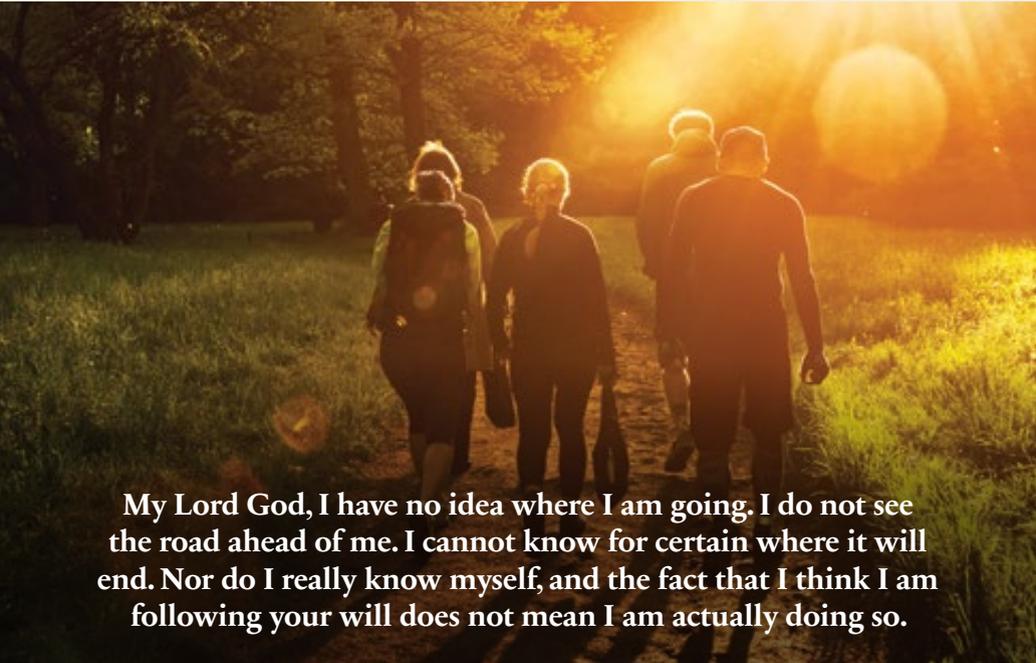
*You have followed God's light and the way of the Gospel  
now lies open before you. Set your feet firmly on that path ...  
Walk in the light of Christ and learn to trust in his wisdom.*

✦ RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS, 52



*The LORD said to Abram: Go forth from your land, your relatives,  
and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. ✚ GENESIS 12:1*

*What we have seen and heard  
we proclaim now to you,  
so that you too may have fellowship with us;  
for our fellowship is with the Father  
and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ✚ 1 JOHN 1:3*

A group of five people are walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a field. The scene is backlit by a very bright, low sun, creating a strong lens flare and silhouetting the figures. The path leads into a line of trees in the distance.

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see  
the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will  
end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am  
following your will does not mean I am actually doing so.**

*But I believe the desire to please you does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope I will never  
do anything apart from that desire. And I know if I do this you will lead  
me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. I will trust you  
always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

✚ THOMAS MERTON

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# The Journey Begins

## **As you begin this step of your faith journey ...**

What key events and people have brought you to this place on your faith journey?

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Where do you see God's presence in your life?

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What do you bring to this process of Christian formation?

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What do you hope to gain from participating in this process?

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# Mystagogy

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*

✦ MATTHEW 28:19–20

How can I grow more deeply in the mystery and meaning of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist in my life?

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In what ways is God calling me to share my faith with others? With whom is God calling me to share my faith?

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What will I do to ensure that I continue to grow in my knowledge and love of Jesus Christ?

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How can I contribute to the life of my parish? How can I get involved and make this faith community my own?

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