

The Catechumenate

- What is the Catechumenate?
 - A process developed by the early Church by which the Christian community welcomes inquirers into a process of formation and candidacy that leads to baptism and ministry.



Modern interest in the catechumenate

- Pre Christendom, Christendom & Post Christendom
 - Vatican II
 - RCIA (1971)
 - BCP 1979
 - BOS



Biblical Basis of the Catechumenate

- The Great Commission (Matt 28.20ff.)
 - Go
 - Make Disciples
 - Baptize
 - Teach
- The Road To Emmaus (LK 24.13 ff.)
 - Join the Conversation
 - Interpret the Scriptures
 - Prayer & Sacramental enlightenment
 - Teach



The Historical Catechumenate (Before 400)

■ Stages

- Pre Catechumenate Inquiry
- Catechumenate
- Enlightenment
- Mystagogia

■ Rites

- Admission
- Enrollment
- Scrutinies
- The Great Celebration Of Easter (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation)



The Historical Catechumenate (After 400)

- The Church Year
 - A Mission Cycle built around the “cornerstone” (Hatchett) of the Great Celebration of Easter
- The Ordination Process
 - Aspirancy
 - Postulancy
 - Candidacy
 - Post-Ordination



The Catechumenate Today

- RCIA (1971)
- BCP (1979)
 - Ash Wednesday preface
 - The Easter Vigil
 - Adult baptism by immersion
- BOS
 - The Catechumenate
- The Faith-Seeking Journey
- The Diocese Of Colorado

The Faith-Seeking Journey

■ Stages and the Church Year

- Inquiry (Late Pentecost)
- Formation (Advent through Epiphany)
- Enlightenment (Lent)
- Initiation (Easter)

■ Rites

- Admission (1st Advent)
- Enrollment (1st Lent)
- Creed and Lord's Prayer (3rd (and 5th) Lent)
- Easter Celebration
- Commitment to Christian Service (Pentecost)



The Faith-Seeking Journey (cont'd)

■ Content and Style

- Inquiry: Church History and Storytelling
- Formation: Liturgy of the Word and Reflective Bible Study
- Enlightenment: Daily Office and Sharing
- Initiation: Sacraments and Discernment



Principles

- Conversion is a process, not a moment
- Storytelling
- Reflective Learning
- Faith lives in Community



Questions

- Already baptized?
- Confirmation
 - A “Rite of Initiation”?
 - A Pastoral Office?
- The Great Celebration of Easter?
- Justification by faith or qualification?