

April 29, 2018

As we continue our examination of the Mass, we have come to the time after the homily when we have the dismissal of the Catechumens if they are present at the Mass. Catechumens are those adults and older children who have never been baptized and now desire to be baptized into the Catholic Church.

The period of the Catechumenate is a time for “suitable pastoral formation and guidance, aimed at training them in the Christian life” (RCIA #75). There are four dimensions to the formation, which takes place during the catechumenate: Doctrinal formation, moral formation, spiritual formation, and apostolic formation.

The formation in these four dimensions only begins during this period of the catechumenate. It is really the beginning of a lifelong process of continual formation in each of these dimensions. When we see the Catechumens dismissed from the assembly we are reminded that their formation is a model for all of us challenging us to ongoing formation and growth in the Christian life.

Since they have not been baptized into the profession of the faith as Catholic Christians and cannot receive the Eucharist, they are dismissed before the Profession of Faith. They participate in the Liturgy of the Word and are then dismissed to reflect further on the Word of God and continue their process of formation in the faith they will one day profess with us.

These are the words used for the dismissal:

“My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayer for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord’s Table” (RCIA #67).

The Catechumens are baptized each year at the Easter Vigil, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation, and join us for the first time in receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Now we stand to make our Profession of Faith.

For a more complete explanation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults used for unbaptized adults and older children who wish to be baptized into the Catholic Church, please read the article RCIA: A Journey of Conversion found on the parish website [StMarkTampa.org](http://StMarkTampa.org). Select Faith Formation/Adults/Adult Faith Formation. Find the article at the bottom of the left side of the screen. Selecting the article will open a PDF format which you can read on your electronic device or print a copy to read at your convenience.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic select Faith Formation/RCIA/Becoming Catholic.