



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO
DEPARTMENT FOR PASTORAL MINISTRIES
Making Missionary Disciples in a Culture of Encounter

Christian Initiation Quick Reference

Registering for the Rite of Election and the Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion

*Catechumens and Candidates have all reached the age of reason, age 7.

Who is a Catechumen?

- A Catechumen is a person who has *never* been baptized.
- A Catechumen is preparing to receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.
- They should be registered as a catechumen for the Rite of Election.

Who is a Candidate? There are 2 main different types of Candidates.

- 1) The *Non-Catholic Candidate* is a person who was previously baptized, but was never Confirmed, and never received Holy Communion. This person typically was baptized as a Christian in another faith tradition (such as Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, or Episcopalian – or any other Christian denomination with valid baptism).

This Candidate is preparing to make a Profession of Faith, to receive Confirmation, and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

- 2) The *Catholic Candidate* is a person who was baptized in the Catholic Church as an infant, but never completed the Sacraments of Initiation, that is, was never Confirmed, and never received Holy Communion.

This Catholic Candidate is preparing to receive Confirmation and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. They *do not* make a Profession of Faith as they are already Catholic by baptism in the Catholic Church.

Both No. 1 and No. 2 should be registered as *Candidates* for the Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion.

Who is a Confirmation-only Candidate?

- A *Confirmation-only Candidate* (or *Confirmand*) is a person who was baptized in the Catholic Church *and* has received Holy Communion.
- While their Confirmation may take place at the Easter Vigil, they should be engaged in preparation for this Sacrament along with the adults in the RCIA. Otherwise, this person gets confirmed at the Celebration of Confirmation for their parish.
- This person is already a Catholic. They do not register or participate in the Rite of Election and the Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion.

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