

## Chapter 4

# Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What are the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation?*

The three Sacraments of Christian Initiation are Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

2. *What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)?*

The RCIA is the process by which an unbaptized person (or “catechumen”) and those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination (or “candidates for full communion”) are prepared to become full members of the Church.

3. *What are the four periods and three steps of the RCIA?*

The RCIA includes seven milestones—that is, four periods of time separated by three steps:

- Period of Inquiry (Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate)
- Step 1: Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens
- Period of the Catechumenate
- Step 2: Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names
- Period of Purification and Enlightenment
- Step 3: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation
- Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy

4. *Describe the four aspects of formation presented in the catechumenate.*

The Period of the Catechumenate includes four kinds of formation: catechesis, spiritual development, liturgy, and apostolic witness. *Catechesis* introduces catechumens not only to Church teaching but also to the very mystery of Christ. In *spiritual development*, the catechumens' spiritual life deepens through learning to pray, to witness to the Gospel in word and action, and to live rooted in the hope made possible in Christ. *Liturgy* includes liturgical rites to support the catechumens, especially celebrations of the Word during Sunday Mass and at other times. Finally, *apostolic witness* means the catechumens learn to work with others to share the Gospel and build up the Church.

5. *Why are the catechumens given the new title of “the elect” during the second step of the RCIA process?*

They are given the title “the elect” because the word *election* implies a choice. The Church has elected to accept the catechumens for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. They are no longer called catechumens.

6. *What are the essential elements of the Sacrament of Baptism?*

The essential elements of the Sacrament of Baptism are the words of Baptism that invoke the Holy Trinity (said by the priest over the person being baptized) and the pouring of or immersion in water.

7. *What is mystagogy?*

Mystagogy is the period of catechesis following the reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation that aims to more fully initiate people into the mystery of Christ.

