

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO



MINISTRY DAYS 2019

Jornada Pastoral

GO  **MAKE
DISCIPLES**

VE **Y HAZ
DISCÍPULOS**



CATHOLIC FUNERAL
& CEMETERY SERVICES
OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Re-imagining RCIA Purification and Enlightenment

Ministry Days 2019

Deacon Ken Crawford

Rita Schillin





Introductions

- Deacon Ken Crawford
 - Ordained June 2018
 - Convert to the faith (RCIA – Sacraments Easter 1999)
 - Been helping with RCIA since 2000
 - 2000 to 2009, Ss. Peter and Paul, Rocklin
 - 2010 to current, St. Clare, Roseville
 - Emphasis on Inquiry period
- Rita Schillin
 - Involved with RCIA since 1989
 - Coordinator at Divine Savior 1995-2007
 - Coordinator at St. Clare 2010-present
 - Diocesan RCIA Committee since 2015



Overview

Goal: To convince you that Purification and Enlightenment (P&E) must be handled very differently than the Catechumenate

- Review Rite text for differences for P&E
- Overview of P&E based on above
- Ideas for how to make P&E different



Review of the Rite Text



P&E Rite Text par. 138

“For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery.”

- Change in emphasis for both general parishioners and RCIA
- Emphasis: “Spiritual recollection”
- Why?: “Preparation” for Easter



P&E Rite Text par. 139

“This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance.”

- Catechesis is for the Catechuminate
- What do we do in P&E
 - Interior reflection
 - Purify the mind and heart
 - Search consciences
 - Do penance



P&E Rite Text par. 139 part 2

“The celebration of certain rites, particularly the scrutinies and the presentations, brings about this process of purification and enlightenment and extends it over the course of the entire Lenten season.”

- Rite text suggests using the celebrations to facilitate the change in emphasis
 - Scrutinies
 - Presentations
 - Rite of Election
 - Ephphatha rite



P&E Rite Text par. 141

“The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose.”

- Re-iterates the point that the activities of P&E are not catechetical but spiritual
- Note: Please do your Scrutinies at Sunday Masses



P&E Rite Text par. 143

“From the first to the final scrutiny the elect should progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation.”

- Re-iterates the point from paragraph 138
“the elect ... search their own consciences and do penance.”
- How do we help them do this?
 - Give them time for reflection
 - Do exercises that encourage reflection later



P&E Rite Text par. 147

“Thus, with the catechetical formation of the elect completed, the Church lovingly entrusts to them the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, the ancient texts that have always been regarded as expressing the heart of the Church’s faith and prayer.”

- Repeated again: Catechesis is complete
- Giving Elect the creed and Lord’s prayer is not a catechetical activity
 - ‘Entrusts them’
 - Think symbolic memento



P&E Rite Text par. 157

“The presentation of the Creed, which takes place during the week after the first scrutiny, should preferably be celebrated in the presence of a community of the faithful, within Mass after the homily.”

- Ideal time for Presentations:
 - Not Sunday - ‘during the week’
 - But at Mass
 - Note: rite text has script for outside of Mass as well
- Note: Says the same thing for Lord’s prayer in a later paragraph



Purpose of Purification and Enlightenment



Purpose of P&E

Overview of the Period of Purification and Enlightenment during Lenten and Triduum

- Start: Rite of Sending – Sat. after Ash Weds.
- After Rite of Election Catechumens become “the Elect”
- Coincides with Lent
- Includes the Triduum
- Ends with Rite of Initiation (Easter Vigil)



Purpose of P&E – Part 2

Points of emphasis during Period of Purification and Enlightenment

- Period of Purification and Enlightenment characterized by:
 - A time of recollection
 - Intensify Faith Journey
 - Lenten retreat
 - Final preparation for the sacraments of initiation
 - Deepen commitment
 - Celebration of Lenten rites
- Rites Celebrated during P&E
 - Scrutinies
 - Presentations (Creed and Our Father)
 - Preparation rites on Holy Saturday
 - Rites of initiation



Purpose of P&E – Part 3

What do we do during the Period of Purification and Enlightenment?

- Environment is important
- The Period of Purification and Enlightenment is likened to a “Lenten Journey”
- Deepen relationships
- Emphasize the Sacramental Life
- Emphasize behavior in living out their call to perfection and transformation



Purpose of P&E – Part 4

What does “catechesis” look like during the Period of P&E?

- A period of experience
- Capitalize on the major events during Lent - the Scrutinies
- Explore questions looking at both strengths and weaknesses
 - What have you most drunk in of Christ? What do you continue to thirst for?
 - What have you seen that you never saw before? What do you remain blind to?
 - What is most life giving in your new intimacy with Christ? What is still dead that needs resurrection?
- Period of Purification and Enlightenment is not a catechumenate ‘catch up’



Practical Ideas

P&E practical idea #1

Meet at a different time and, if possible, in a different place

- Scrutinies provide an opportunity to use different Mass times
- Year round programs need to have a separate place for Catechumenate and P&E
- Doing Presentations mid-week also provide opportunity for change



P&E practical idea #2

No more “weekly topics” like the Catechumenate

- ‘Dump’ your book!
- No more teaching
- Give them experiences
 - Prayer
 - Journaling
 - meditation



P&E practical idea #3

Stop talking: Get the elect talking, writing, and reflecting

- Catechumenate naturally has Catechists talking a lot
- Don't fall into the temptation to keep talking
- Ideas to stop talking
 - Reflection questions for Elect
 - Silent meditation
 - Have elect share experiences from rites



P&E practical idea #4

Do Presentations of Lord's Prayer and Creed outside of the Scrutiny Mass

- Presentations are completely separate from Scrutinies
- Rite book #157 & #178 – “should preferably be celebrated in the presence of a community of the faithful, within Mass”
 - Not the same Mass as the Scrutiny
- Rite book has text for outside of Mass celebration



P&E practical idea #5

Use one session to do a detailed Examination of Conscience

- Rite text suggests they “search their own consciences” as part of P&E
- What better way to do that than a detailed Examination of Conscience used before confession?
 - Gives Elect guide for their 1st confession
 - Makes the minor exorcisms more meaningful
- Similar to idea #1, this gets them spending more time in prayer and meditating



P&E practical idea #6

Spend time reflecting on what happened during the Scrutinies

- Mystagogical reflection
 - What did the Scrutiny mean to them?
 - How did they feel?



P&E practical idea #7

Go somewhere special (a 'field trip'): Monastery, Retreat center, different Stations of the Cross, Cathedral, etc.

- Ideally separate from a retreat
- After Rite of Election the Elect are eager to be exposed to more of the beauty of our Church
- Experiential as opposed to Catechetical



P&E practical idea #8

Have a retreat weekend (ideally the weekend before Easter Vigil)

- Experience the stations of the Cross
- Journaling
- Examination of Conscience (Time for recognizing our sins and expressing our regrets)
- Visio Divina
- Group Prayer
- Meditation
- Reflect on Easter Vigil readings
- Drama/Stories





Conclusion

P&E must be handled very differently than the Catechumenate

- Stop focusing on Catechesis
- Change the format
- Emphasize Scrutinies and Presentations
- Match the ‘tone’ of Lent
- Be creative



Additional Information

- Webpage:
 - <http://deaconken.org>
- E-mail:
 - ken@deaconken.org
 - rcia@stclareroseville.org (Rita)
- Slides
 - <http://deaconken.org/blog/category/presentations/>
- Audio/Video may be available at a later date.
 - Check <http://deaconken.org/blog>

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO



MINISTRY DAYS 2019

Jornada Pastoral

GO  **MAKE DISCIPLES**

VE **Y HAZ DISCÍPULOS**



CATHOLIC FUNERAL
& CEMETERY SERVICES
OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER



Overview of RCIA

St. Clare Parish Process

- Year round
 - Inquiry
 - Catechumenate
- Not single path
 - Many Rite of Acceptances
 - Decisions/meetings before each Rite

