



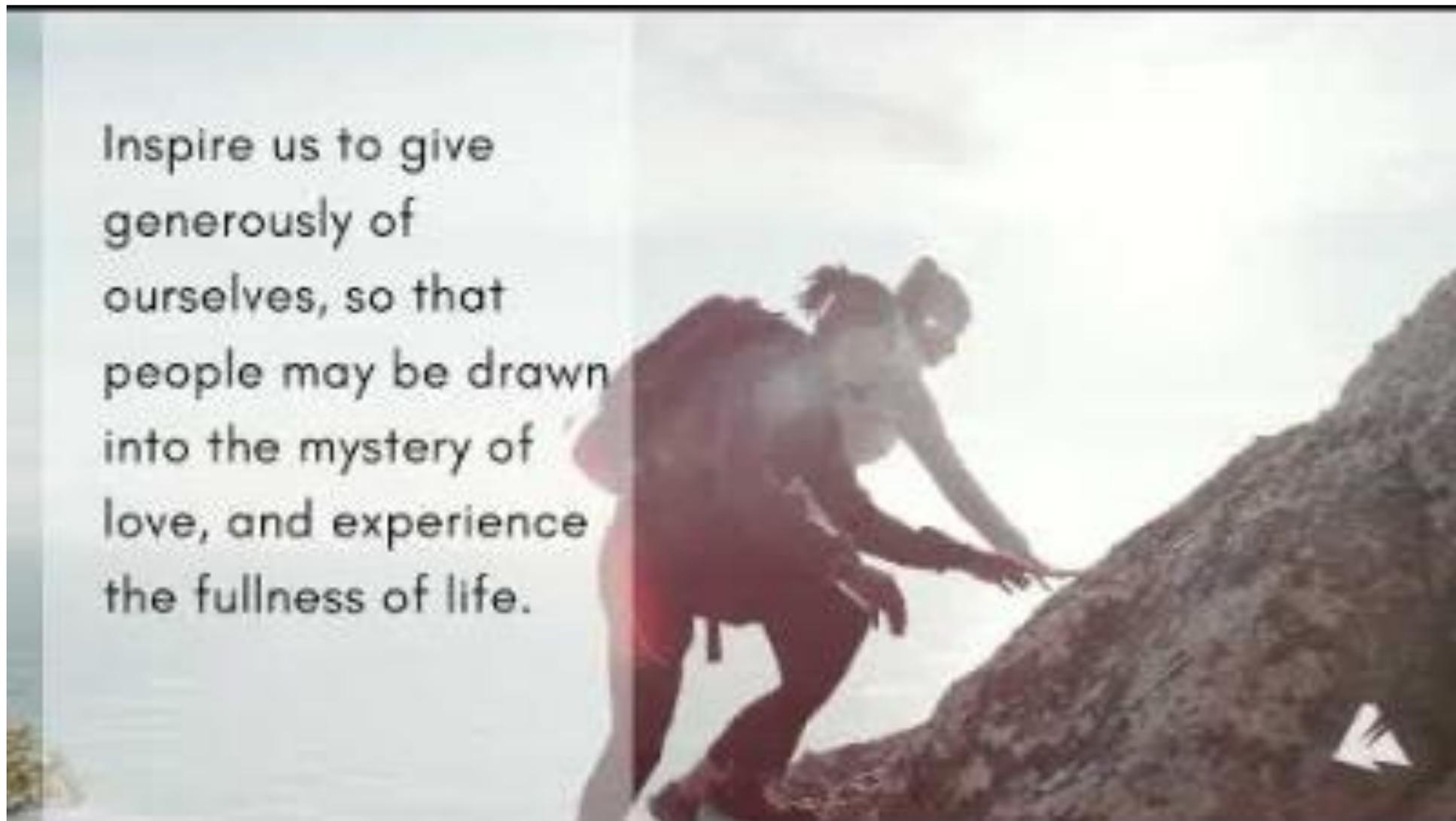
CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP

A work of the Missionaries of God's Love

The Process of Evangelisation – The RCIA

Theological Foundations of Mission 4

Inspire us to give
generously of
ourselves, so that
people may be drawn
into the mystery of
love, and experience
the fullness of life.

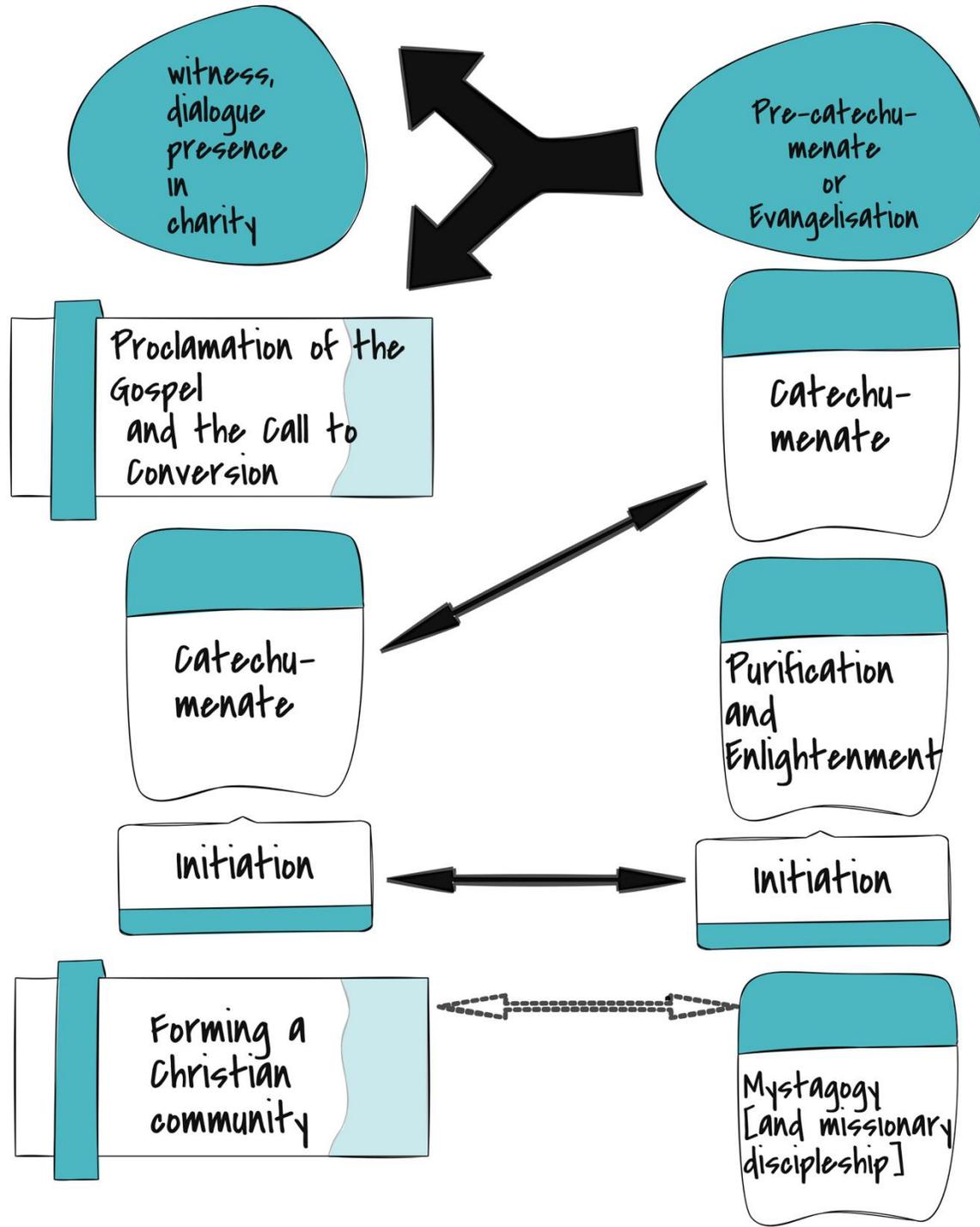


Recap of Lecture 3

- Vatican II opens up a new paradigm for mission in a post-Christendom Church
- The Church's mission – to express the love of the Trinitarian communion (Gregory)
- Ad Gentes – On Missionary Activity
 - *Missio Dei* – the Mission of God
- Missionary activity – the process of evangelization
- The RCIA – Ad Gentes > same process
- Primacy to evangelization
- The process of evangelization is the source of inspiration for all catechesis



*Ad
Gentes*



RCIA



witness,
dialogue
presence
in
charity



Pre-catechu-
menate
or
Evangelisation

The Process of Evangelisation in AG
and the RCIA
mutually interpret each other

Proclamation of the
Gospel
and the call to
Conversion

Catechu-
menate

Ad
Gentes

Catechu-
menate

Purification
and
Enlightenment

RCIA

Initiation

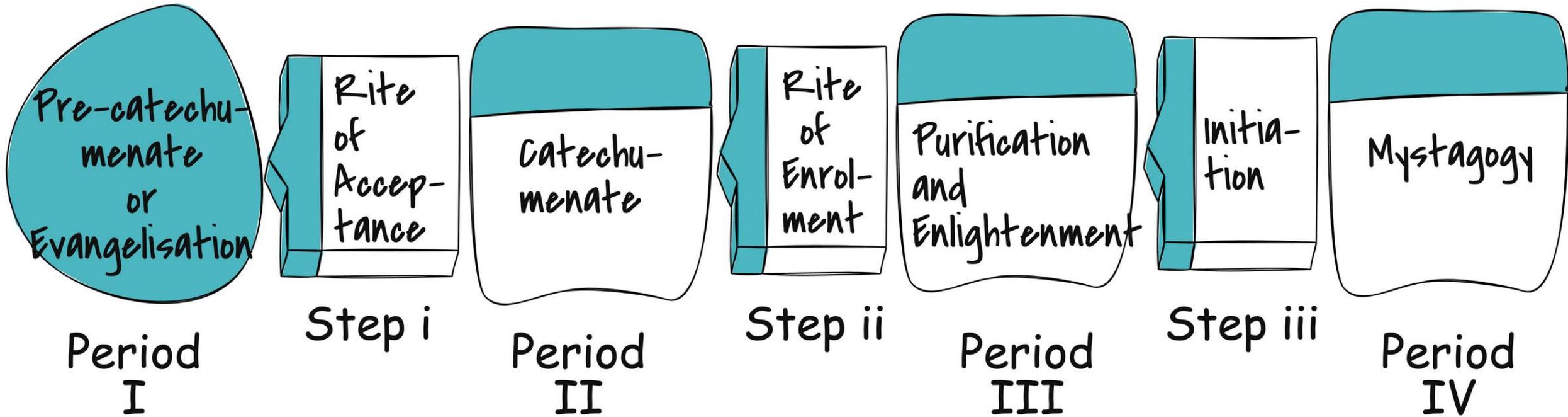
Initiation

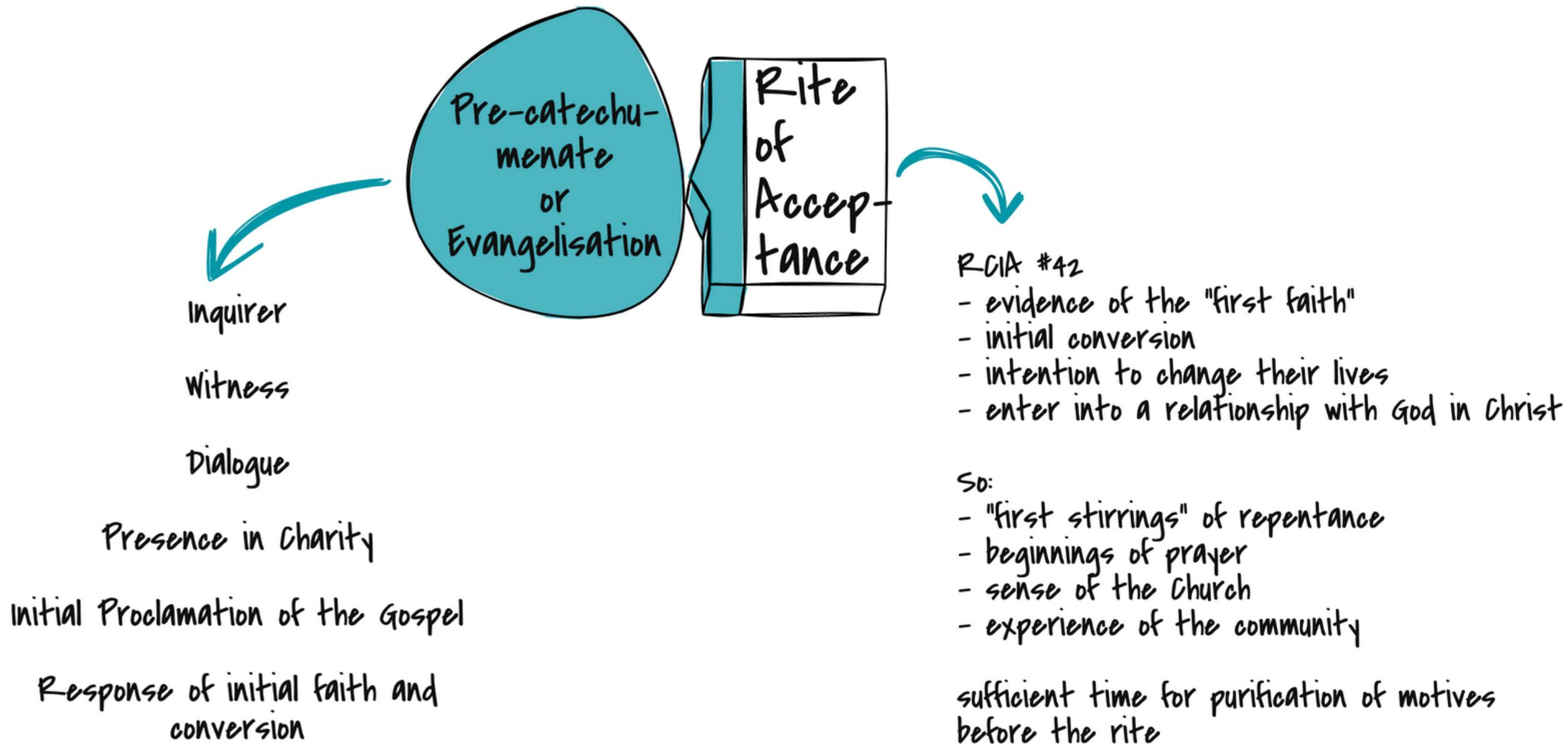
Forming a
Christian
community

Mystagogy
[and missionary
discipleship]



The RCIA





Pre-catechumenate

Kerygma

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you” (EG 164).

The story of God’s loving creation of humanity, our rejection of his love and God’s sending of his Son Jesus to free us from all our unloving (sin), and restore us to the relationship of love that God wanted us to have from the very beginning.

It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit that this story doesn’t remain an abstract theory or a nice tale, but becomes deeply, personally true - for me. Even as it remains the redemption of the human race.

It involves a life-changing encounter with the love of God revealed in Jesus’ self-giving love on the Cross for us, and poured into our hearts by the Spirit who has been given to us.



Pre-catechumenate

Response of Faith and Conversion

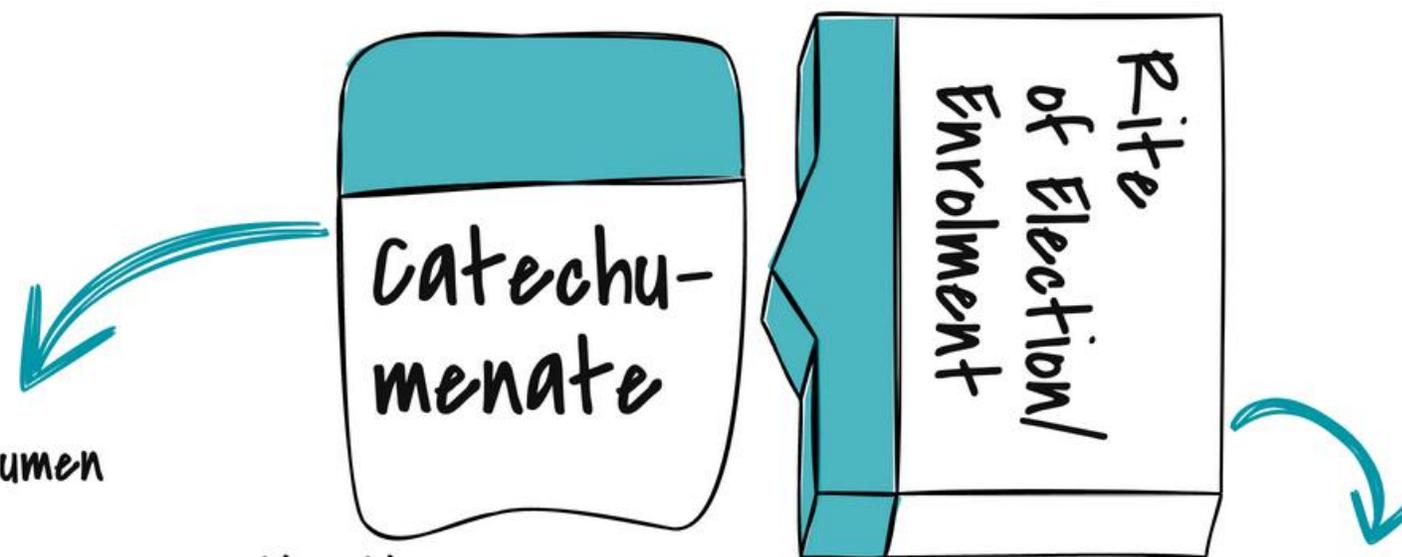
Different kinds of faith:

- Faith as assent
- Faith as trust
- Faith as allegiance

Conversion

- A change of mind and heart
- Turning from unbelief and towards God
- Turning from sin and towards virtue





catechumen

training or apprenticeship
in Christian life

Share in: Communal life,
prayer, mission
receive instruction
(RCIA #75)

Rites: celebration of Word,
minor exorcisms,
blessings, anointings,

dismissed at lit. of Eucharist

RCIA #107

- undergone a conversion in mind and in action
- sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching
spirit of faith and charity
- with deliberate will and enlightened faith have
intention to receive the sacraments

109

Discernment from priests, deacons,
catechists, godparents and entire community
as to readiness
surround them with prayer afterwards



elect

Lent

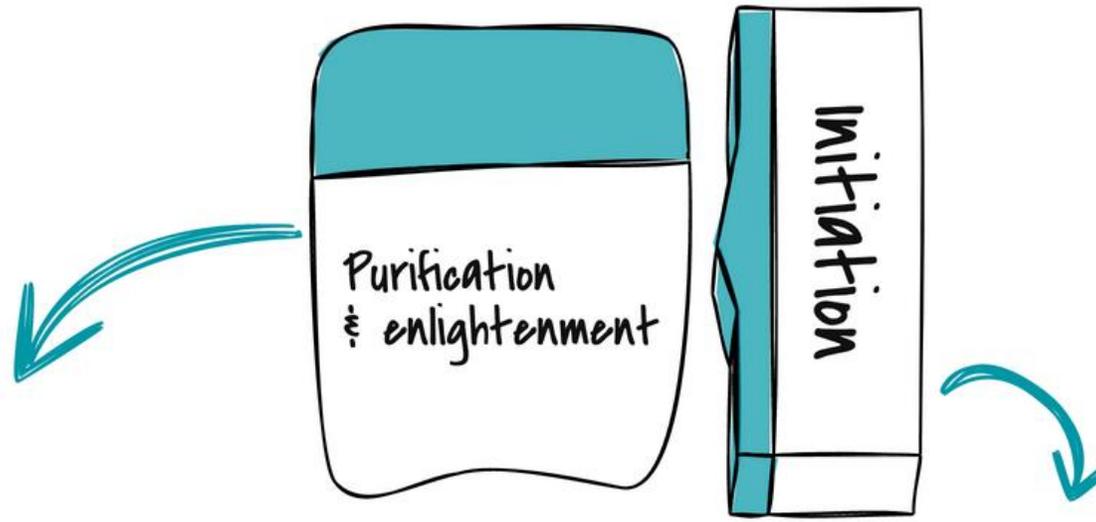
intense spiritual preparation

"deeper knowledge of
Christ the Saviour"

Prayer

3 scrutinies

Presentations of the Creed
& Lord's Prayer



RCIA #198

- baptism, confirmation, and eucharist
- pardon for their sins
- admitted into the Church

graced with adoption and led by the Holy Spirit
in the eucharist to a foretaste of the Kingdom
of God

usually at Easter

- renunciation of sin and profession of faith
- baptism (garment, lighted candle)
- confirmation: laying on of hands, chrism
- eucharist





Mystagogy

neophytes

catechesis upon the
experience of the
sacraments of initiation

integration into faith
community

full living out of discipleship,
communion, mission



What does the RCIA usually look like in parishes?

And what's the biggest complaint about the RCIA?



Common Issues with the RCIA's implementation

- People wanting to become Catholics go straight to Period 2: No pre-catechumenate

- Especially no kerygma

- “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you” (EG 164).

- CR:

The story of God's loving creation of humanity, our rejection of his love and God's sending of his Son Jesus to free us from all our unloving (sin), and restore us to the relationship of love that God wanted us to have from the very beginning.

It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit that this story doesn't remain an abstract theory or a nice tale, but becomes deeply, personally true - for me. Even as it remains the redemption of the human race.

It involves a life-changing encounter with the love of God revealed in Jesus' self-giving love on the Cross for us, and poured into our hearts by the Spirit who has been given to us.



Common Issues with the RCIA's implementation

- Classroom model rather than apprenticeship model for the Catechumenate
 - which leads to a heavy focus upon catechesis to the detriment of “learning by doing”:
 - Sharing in the life, prayer, and mission of the Church (RCIA # 75)
 - “The parish is the curriculum”
 - Presumes that the parish has a communal life and mission (and more than Sunday Eucharist)
- Intense small group experience that cocoons catechumens from the rest of the parish
 - Creates a big problem when the small group experience ends
 - Is not faithful to them being part of the wider parish community



From Theory to Practice: e.g. of St Declan's

Catechumenate?

Pre-catechumenate?

Missionary
Discipleship
(post-mystagogy)?

Mystagogy?



 INVITATION

 ALPHA

 LIFE GROUPS

 FORMATION

 WORSHIP

 OUTREACH

 MINISTRY

If the Process of Evangelisation is the model ...

- An analogous process is required for:
 - those who have been baptised but not fully initiated
 - Those who have been baptised but not sufficiently evangelised or catechised (this is actually all those who were baptised in infancy)
- So youth ministry needs a process of evangelisation or discipleship pathway (strategy for evangelization and equivalent of catechumenate)
- Family educators – ministry largely sits in the pre-catechumenate stage: witness, presence in charity, dialogue, inquiry, kerygma



Quiz Information

- Why the Quizzes: to help you retain what you are learning
- Covers only material from Weeks 1-4 of the Theological Foundations of Mission Course (no material from the first intensive)
- So review: 1) Scriptural foundations of mission, 2) Mission in the early church, and 3) Intro to Theology of mission 4) Process of evangelisation
- 15 Questions
- 20 minutes
- Multiple Choice
- Each Quiz is worth 15% (so each question is worth 1 mark)
- Closed book – no notes
- **The first quiz will be at the beginning of the next Lecture: 7pm, Wednesday 12 March (No Ash Wednesday Quiz)**



Accessing the Quiz

- Through the Classroom
- Be logged into the classroom on the TFM content page
- I will let you know that the quiz is live
- Go to Lecture 5 and you will see the quiz
- Don't press "Finish Quiz" Button until you have finished.

