



# LIETUVOS KATECHETIKOS CENTRAS

LITHUANIAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

## Presentation of Catechumenate in Lithuania

There are 2,8 million inhabitants in Lithuania. Approximately 78 percent of them identify themselves as Catholics.

There is quite a deep-rooted tradition in Lithuania to baptize children, therefore, few adults are non-Christians. However, adults who were not baptized in the past as well as older Lithuanians who come back from emigration seek to receive the sacraments of Christian Initiation. We do not have many immigrants from other countries so we do not feel the need for such initiation from them. The majority of adults who ask for the sacraments of initiation wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Implementation of Catechumenate in Lithuania began in 2017. By the decision of Lithuanian Bishops Catechumenate in Lithuania lasts approximately 10 months. The duration of different periods of Catechumenate is the following:

1. The Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate: from September until the first Sunday of Advent;
2. The Period of the Catechumenate: from the first Sunday of Advent until the first Sunday of Lent;
3. The Period of Purification and Enlightenment: from the first Sunday of Lent until Easter;
4. The Period of Mystagogy: from Easter until Pentecost.

In the year 2017-2018 Catechumenate took place in 20 parishes throughout Lithuania. 46 adults prepared for all the sacraments of initiation. 151 adults prepared for the Eucharist and/or for Confirmation. This year – in 2018-2019 – Catechumenate takes place in 31 parishes throughout Lithuania. 57 persons are preparing for all the sacraments of initiation. 425 adults are preparing for the Eucharist and/or for Confirmation.

The main difficulties that we encounter are:

1. The role of sponsors is not defined;
2. There is low level of participation during the Period of Mystagogy;
3. We do not have documents or instructions that would help priests and catechists to implement Catechumenate.

Director

Msgr. Rimantas Gudlinkis