

CATECHUMENATE IN THE DIOCESES OF SPAIN

15 YEARS

Documents

□ Vatican Council II

1. SC 64. The catechumenate for adults, comprising several distinct steps, is to be restored.
2. CD 14. Bishops should also strive to renew or at least adapt in a better way the instruction of adult catechumens.
3. LG 14. With love and solicitude Mother Church already embraces them as her own (catechumens).

□ Posconciliar documents

1. RICA 1. Ritual as spiritual aid
2. CIC 778/3 . Bishops Conference should publish statutes to regulate catechumenate.
3. Bishops' Ceremonial, 406. Bishop: organize, lead and promote the instruction of the catechumens.

Documents

- La Iniciación cristiana. Reflexiones y Orientaciones (1998)
 - It answers the necessity relating the Christian initiation
 - 2 ways in the paths of Christian initiation that coexist and enrich each other
 - Ordinary
 - Catechumenate
 - Catechumenate for:
 - Non baptised
 - Adults (IC 112-123; RICA I)
 - Children and teenagers (IC 134-138; RICA V)
 - Adults who need to culminate the sacramental initiation (IC 124-133; RICA IV)

Documents from our Bishops

1. Orientaciones pastorales para el Catecumenado (2002)
 - ▣ Missionary commitment
 - ▣ Common basic idea and a variety of details
 - ▣ Responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop
 - ▣ Link between Catechesis and Liturgy
 - ▣ The necessity of the parish community
 - ▣ Catechumenal itinerary. Structure and contents

Documents from our Bishops

2. Orientaciones pastorales para la iniciación cristiana de niños no bautizados en su infancia (2004)
 - ▣ Request of the Baptism of children
 - ▣ Proposal for a Catechumenate for children (7-12 years old)
 - ▣ Responsibilities of the Christian community
 - ▣ Structure of the catechumenal process
 - Catechetical itinerary. Fundamentals
 - Times, rituals and celebration of the sacraments
 - ▣ Challenges and suggestions
 - Inspiration of the Catechumenate in children's catechesis
 - Welcome to the parents and catechist's training

Other documents

- *Rancontre avec Jésus le Christ* (French Bishops)
- *Réflexions sur le catéchuménat* (French Bishops)

Action Plan of the Subcommittee of Catechesis 2016/2020

- Objective 2016:
 - ▣ To remind and promote bishops the instauration of the Catechumenate in their own dioceses as a institution and model for those who wish to culminate their Christian initiation.
- Actions 2016:
 - ▣ To propose the materials *Rencontre avec Jésus le Christ* (French Bishops) to accompany the catechumenal itinerary of non baptised young and adult people.

Action Plan of the Subcommittee of Catechesis 2016/2020

- Objective 2018:
 - ▣ To motivate *lectio divina* for the proposal of the First Announcement, in the catechetical process of initiation and in the itinerary of Catechumenate.
- Objective 2019:
 - ▣ To prepare carefully the celebrations of the sacraments of the Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), as well as Marriage, looking after the religious character, the maturation of the faith and its *savoir efficace*.

Action Plan of the Subcommittee of Catechesis 2016/2020

□ Actions 2019:

- To accompany parents and godparents with meetings and accurate catechesis around the fruitful celebration of the sacraments of the Christian initiation.

Actions in the past 15 years

- Collection “Cathequesis Today”. 2° volume: “Non baptised children during childhood. A challenge for Catechesis”
- Presence of the Subcommittee in international meetings:
 - ▣ European Bureau of Catechumenate or Eurocat
- 14 Annual Meetings of Diocesan Delegates of Catechumenate
- Section “Catechumenate” in the magazine *Actualidad Catequética*

Actions in the past 15 years

- Meeting of Diocesan Delegates of Catechesis.
 - 2002. Catechumenate
 - 2003. Lecture: “An horizon of hope. Catechumenate of children 7-12”
 - 2005. Lecture: “Catechumenate, a new proposal for Church in Spain”
 - 2007. Communication: “First announcement and Catechumenate”
- Support and presence of the Subcommittee of Catechesis in the dioceses

Meeting of Catechumenate in Spain

- I Meeting, May 2003. “Pastoral Orientations for Catechumenate”
- II Meeting, February 2005. “Pastoral Orientations for the Christian initiation of non-baptised children”
- III Meeting, December 2006. “Presentation of the new Dioceses that have established Catechumenate”
- IV Meeting, December 2007. “Catechists of the catechumens”

Meeting of Catechumenate in Spain

- V Meeting, March 2009. “Unity of the sacraments of the Christian initiation”
- VI Meeting, March 2010. “Pastoral keys of the RICA”
- VII Meeting, April 2011. “Catechumenate in Spain. Evaluation and perspectives of 10 years”
- VIII Meeting, February 2012. “Conversion in the catechumenal process”
- IX Meeting, February 2013. “Initial faith in the catechumenal process”

Meeting of Catechumenate in Spain

- X Meeting, March-April 2014. “Pre-Catechumenate and the Ritual of Entrance”
- XI Meeting, March 2015. “Catechumenate and the Ritual of Choice”
- XII Meeting, April 2016. “Mystagogy in the Catechumenate”
- XIII Meeting, March 2017. “Origin, development and keys of Catechumenate”
- XIV Meeting, April 2018. “Christian initiation of non-baptised children”

Steps to development

- Theological and pastoral reports and studies
- Wide information to the dioceses
- Decree of establishment
- Designation of the Delegate of Catechumenate
- Training for the Diocesan Service for Catechumenate
- Elaboration and diffusion of the itinerary for the catechumens
- Wide and consistent diffusion in the diocese
 - ▣ Posters
 - ▣ Flyers
 - ▣ Documents
 - ▣ Resources

Verifications in the journey

- Importance of welcoming
- Necessary judgement of the situation of each candidate
- Necessity of a team working in the Diocesan Service of Catechumenate
- Accurate development of the process:
 - ▣ Duration and content of each stage
 - ▣ Catechetical itinerary
 - ▣ Places of the Rituals and celebrations of the sacraments
- Adequate places: cathedral and parish
- Necessity of the presence of the Bishop
- Training of catechists
- Importance of *Mystagogy*

Last considerations

- In April 2013, there were 23 dioceses working on the Catechumenate.
- In 2018, 44 dioceses have established Catechumenate or are in progress.
- In the majority of the dioceses of Spain, Catechumenate is present as an ecclesial proposal to the increasing request of people that ask faith and Christian life.

Last considerations

- The spreading of the Catechumenate in the dioceses of Spain point the necessity. It has been established as the only path to the Baptism of adult people and non-baptised children
- It is urgent to raise awareness of the catechumenal itinerary, both by the bishops and by the parish priests, so that they can “secure” the encounter of the catechumens with Christ Jesus inside the ecclesial community

Last considerations

- Meeting of the Diocesan Delegates of Catechumenate help to maintain and spread the flame of the Catechumenate in the dioceses.
- The dialogue between bishops and delegates with Subcommittee of Catechesis is convenient and positive to reunite guidelines to strengthen the daily work of parishes that welcome new candidates to Christian life.
- Subcommittee of Catechesis can guide and reinforce, on request, the implementation of the RICA