

THE UN-BAPTIZED CHILD / TEEN OF CATECHETICAL AGE ,
AND THE
BAPTIZED TEEN WHO SEEKS PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION
AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

What to do?

Presenter: Oscar Cruz



WHAT ABOUT UN-BAPTIZED CHILDREN?

- Unbaptized **children ages 0 - 6** are to be baptized only according to the *Order of Baptism for Children*.
 - + their First Eucharist and Confirmation are deferred until a later age according to diocesan / parish policy.
 - + First Eucharist...around 7 - 8 years old / 2nd - 3rd grades
 - + Confirmation...around 12 - 14 years old / 7th - 9th grades
- Unbaptized **children ages 7 - 13** are to be enrolled in the **Catechumenate (OCIA)** and then - when ready - are to be fully initiated according to the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*:
Chapter 2: Order of Initiation of Children who have reached Catechetical Age
 - + all three sacraments of initiation are celebrated at the same Mass.
(baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist)

WHAT ABOUT TEENAGERS ?

- Unbaptized **Teenagers ages 14 - 17** are to be enrolled in the **Catechumenate (OCIA)** and then - when ready - are to be fully initiated according to the
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: Chapter One
 - + all three sacraments of initiation are celebrated at the same Mass.
(baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist)
- Baptized **Teenagers ages 14 - 17** who seek preparation for Confirmation & First Communion may be enrolled in the **Catechumenate (OCIA)** and then - when ready - can receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist according to the
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults:
Chapter Five: Preparing adults for Confirmation and the Eucharist who were baptized as infants and did not receive catechesis.
 - + all two sacraments of initiation are celebrated at the same Mass.
(Confirmation and first Eucharist)

WHAT ABOUT BAPTIZED *PROTESTANT* CHILDREN?

- Baptized Protestant children ages 0 - 6 with at least one Catholic parent...
 - + The children *must wait* to become Catholic at the celebration of their First Eucharist according to diocesan / parish policy.
- Baptized Protestant children ages 0 - 6 with at least one Protestant parent becoming Catholic...
 - + The children *immediately* become Catholic at the same time their parent becomes a Catholic. No rite is required of them.
 - + Their Confirmation and First Eucharist are deferred until a later age according to diocesan / parish policy.

WHAT ABOUT BAPTIZED **PROTESTANT** CHILDREN?

- Baptized Protestant children ages 0 - 6 with Protestant parents remaining Protestant...
 - + The children *must wait* until catechetical age (ages 7 - 13) and with parental permission:

fully Option 1: be enrolled in the Catechumenate / OCIA (chapter VI) and - when ready - be initiated at the same Mass: reception, confirmation, eucharist.

Option 2: prepare and receive First Eucharist and Confirmation separately according to diocesan and parish policy.

- Preparation One: Mass One: reception and first eucharist.
- Preparation Two: Mass Two: confirmation.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - OCIA

THE CATECHUMENATE



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - IN GENERAL -

- The **OCIA** is the name of the ritual book.
- The **Catechumenate** is the name of the process.
- HISTORY:
 - Vatican Council 2 called for the restoration of the Catechumenate
 - The Catechumenate was restored in 1972
 - In 1988 the USCCB published the RCIA ritual text
 - In 2024 the USCCB published a new version: the OCIA ritual text

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - THE CATECHUMENATE -

The Catechumenate (OCIA) is the official process of
Christian initiation / formation / preparation for:

Chapter One:

Unbaptized **adults (TEENS)** seeking to become Catholic ... ages 14+
(baptism, confirmation, eucharist)

Chapter Two:

Unbaptized **children** seeking to become Catholic ... ages 7 - 13
(baptism, confirmation, eucharist)

Chapter Five:

Baptized Catholic **adults (TEENS)** seeking to receive Confirmation and First Eucharist ... ages 14+
(confirmation, eucharist)

Chapter Six:

Baptized Protestant **adults (TEENS)** and **children** seeking to become Catholic ... ages 7+
(reception, confirmation, eucharist)



THE RITUAL BOOK:

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, 2024

CONTENTS:

- - Christian Initiation: General Introduction (1 - 35)
- - National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults (Norms 1 - 18)
- - The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: Introduction (OCIA 1 - 35)
- - Chapter One: Order of the Catechumenate (OCIA 36 - 251) UNBAPTIZED Ages 14 +
- - Chapter Two: Order of Initiation of Children (OCIA 252 - 330) UNBAPTIZED Ages 7 - 13
- - Chapter Three: Simpler Order of Adult Initiation (OCIA 331 - 369) UNBAPTIZED Sickness / Travel
- - Chapter Four: Shorter Order of Adult Initiation (OCIA 370 - 399) UNBAPTIZED Danger of Death
- - Chapter Five: Preparing Adults for Confirmation & Eucharist (OCIA 400 - 472) Baptized Catholics Ages 14 +
- - Chapter Six: Order of Reception into the Full Communion (OCIA 473 - 504) Baptized Protestants Ages 7+
- - Appendix 1: Combined Rites (OCIA 505 - 594)
- - Appendix 2: Acclamations, Hymns, and Chants (OCIA 595 - 597)

THE VISION OF THE CATECHUMENATE ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN/TEENS

- **Conversion:** Change of Life / Living the Christian Life / Discipline of Prayer
/ Discipline of Charity / Missionary Disciple of Jesus Christ
/ Active Member of Catholic Church
- **Communal Experience:** Accompaniment / Parish and Apostolic Life / **FAMILY LIFE / Peer Ministry**
- **Catechesis:** Evangelization / Pastoral Formation / Spiritual Formation
... Kerygma / Scripture / Liturgical Year / Liturgy of the Word / Dogmas / Doctrines
... **FAMILY CATECHESIS**
- **Liturgical Process:** Major and Minor Rites / Liturgy of the Word / Sunday Mass
- **Adaptability:** **Family Involvement / Family Sponsorship**
/ Groupings for Catechesis ...age or grade or catechumens only
/ Year-Round Catechumenate vs Academic Year

THE CATECHUMENATE

- IN GENERAL -

The Order for the UNBAPTIZED

1. Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate

... begins with a “knock on the door”

2. Period of the Catechumenate

...begins with a Major Rite: *Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate*

3. Period of Purification and Enlightenment (Lent)

... begins with a Major Rite: *Rite of Election*

4. Period of Mystagogy (Easter)

... begins with a Major Rite: *The celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Bapt./Conf./Eucharist)*



THE CATECHUMENATE

- IN GENERAL -

The Order for the BAPTIZED

1. Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate

... begins with a “knock on the door”

2. Period of the Catechumenate

...begins with a Major Rite: *Rite of Welcoming the Candidates*

3. Period of Purification and Enlightenment (Lent)

... begins with a Major Rite: *Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion*

4. Period of Mystagogy (Easter)

... begins with a Major Rite:

The celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Confirmation & Eucharist)



THE CATECHUMENATE PROCESS

ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN / TEENS

An Overview - following a School Year Model

Option A - TWO YEARS

Period of the Pre-Catechumenate

Year One: Sept. - Dec.

Period of the Catechumenate

Year One: Dec. - June

Year Two: Sept. - Feb.

Period of Purification & Enlightenment

Year Two: Feb. - Apr.

Period of Mystagogy

Year Two: Apr. - June



THE CATECHUMENATE PROCESS

ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN / TEENS

An Overview - following a School Year Model

Option B - THREE YEARS

Period of the Pre-Catechumenate

Year One: Sept. - June

Period of the Catechumenate

Year Two: Sept. - June

Year Three: Sept. - Feb.

Period of Purification & Enlightenment

Year Three: Feb. - Apr.

Period of Mystagogy

Year Three: Apr. - June



PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE

ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN / TEENS

Participants: Children / Teens (Inquirers) ... and ... their Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Goal: Encounter with Christ / Awaken Initial Faith Life / Evangelization

Process: *INFORMAL FORMATION*

Hospitality / Build Trust / Dialogue / Listen / Share faith (personal / bible / church stories / Witness faith life / Introduce to Parish Community / Introduce to Prayer / Evangelize / Proclaim the Kerygma

Options: ... **One-to-One** ..and/or.. **Group Gatherings**

... Peer Gatherings (Same Age / Grade)

... Gatherings with Parents only / Gatherings with Children / Teens only

... Family Gatherings - Intergenerational Gatherings

Time: As long as it takes ... or ... Set-time frame

Rites: NONE



PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN / TEENS

STARTS WITH RITE OF ENTRANCE / RITE OF WELCOMING

Participants: Catechumens (unbaptized) / Candidates (baptized protestant) ...and Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

Goal: Deepen Initial Conversion / Training in Catholic Christian Life (Prayer and Charity)/ Formation of a Missioned Disciple of Jesus.

Process: **PASTORAL FORMATION** ... see OCIA, 75

1. Prayer: Sunday Mass and the Major and Minor Rites
2. Catechesis: *Dismissal Catechesis* and *Extended Catechesis*
3. Accompaniment and Community Life (OCIA Family Sponsor) (Domestic Church)
4. Participation in Apostolic Life

Time: as long as it takes / many years if necessary ...or... Set-Time Frame

Rites: *Catechumen:* Rite of Entrance / Liturgy of the Word / Minor Rites

Protestant Candidate: Rite of Welcome / Sunday Mass / Sacrament of Reconciliation



PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

PASTORAL FORMATION / PRAYER:

For the UNBAPTIZED:

Major Rites:

- + *Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate*: Adults (OCIA 41 - 74) Children: (OCIA 260-276)
- + *LITURGY OF THE WORD* (OCIA 81 - 89) ... First part of the Sunday Mass with Dismissal

Rite

- + *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election* (optional) (OCIA 106 - 117)

Minor Rites: (optional for children)

- + Minor Exorcisms (OCIA 90 - 94)
- + Blessing of the Catechumens (OCIA 95 - 97)
- + Anointing of the Catechumens (OCIA 98 - 103)

For the BAPTIZED Protestant:

Major Rites:

- + *Rite of Welcoming the Candidates* (OCIA 411 - 433)
- + *LITURGY OF THE WORD AND LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST* (no communion)
- + Rite of Sending the Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion (OCIA 434 - 445)



PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN / TEENS

PASTORAL FORMATION / CATECHESIS:

1. *Sunday Mass*

- + Catechumens: Liturgy of the Word and *Dismissal Catechesis*
- + Candidates: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist
(no communion)

2. *Extended Catechesis ... many options*

- + Catechumens and Candidates only
- + Families together



PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

PASTORAL FORMATION / CATECHESIS: Dismissal Catechesis

1. After the Sunday Mass Homily / before the Creed

... catechumens only are dismissed from Church with a catechist

2. Catechumens with Catechist gather in a separate room for faith sharing:

a. Call to Prayer (Spontaneous)

b. Proclamation of the Gospel Reading (or additional Sunday Mass readings)

c. Reflection Questions / Activities:

- What did you hear in the reading? What touched you?

- How can you respond to the Word of God you heard today?

d. Closing Prayer: e.g. Minor Rites / Petitions



PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN / TEENS

PASTORAL FORMATION / **CATECHESIS**: **Extended Catechesis**

Topics come from:

- Catechetical resource that follows the Liturgical Year / The Lectionary Sunday Cycle
- Catechetical resource that follows a systematic approach (traditional religious education textbook)

Possible Options:

Option A) Catechumens gather *only* with a parish Catechist

- + Option 1: Catechumens together of the same by age or grade
- + Option 2: Catechumens of different ages together

Option B) Catechumens gather *with their baptized peers* by age or grade
+ with a Parish Catechist / Catholic School Catechist

Option C) Catechumens *and their Parents* gather with a parish Catechist



PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN / TEENS

PASTORAL FORMATION / COMMUNITY: Accompaniment

1. OCIA Family Sponsor (OCIA, 10)

- assigned by the parish
- serves as a companion, consultant, guide
- helps the catechumen/candidate feel part of the parish
- offers encouragement, prayer, clarification, witness
- invites and accompanies to parish events / prayer opportunities

2. Parishioners / Other Families / Domestic Church



PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

PASTORAL FORMATION / APOSTOLIC LIFE:

Missionary Discipleship

Guiding Principles:

- Love of God / Love of Neighbor / Love of Self
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Charity
- Catholic Social Teachings
- “Thy Kingdom Come on Earth”
- Matthew Chapter 25:31 – 46 (The Final Judgment)

PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

STARTS WITH ... RITE OF ELECTION / RITE OF CALLING THE CANDIDATE TO CONTINUING
CONVERSION

Participants: Elect (unbaptized)/ Candidates (baptized) ...& Parents/Guardians

Goal: Become aware of what is sinful / what is holy Examination of Conscience

Process: ***SPIRITUAL FORMATION***

1. Prayer: Sunday Mass, Major and Minor Rites & Retreat / Day of Prayer and Reflection
2. Catechesis: Dismissal Catechesis and Extended Catechesis
3. Accompaniment and Community Life (Godparent) (Domestic Church)
4. Participation in Apostolic Life

Time: The season of Lent

Rites: Elect: Rite of Election - 2 options / Liturgy of the Word / Penitential Rite

Optional: Scrutiny 1, 2, 3 / Handing On of the Creed / Handing On of the Lord's Prayer

Candidate: Rite of Continuing Conversion / Sunday Mass / Sacrament of Reconciliation



PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY

STARTS WITH ... THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Participants: Neophytes (newly baptized) / Newly Received (Protestants) / ..and Parents/Guardians

Goal: Continued growth in faith and charity / better understanding of Sacred Mysteries

Process: *ONGOING FORMATION*

1. Prayer: Sunday Neophyte Masses and a Neophyte Mass with the Bishop
2. Catechesis: Extended Catechesis
3. Community Life (Godparent) (Parishioners) (Domestic Church)
4. Participation in Apostolic Life

Time: The season of Easter ... ends with *Pentecost Sunday*.

Rites: *Sacraments of Christian Initiation / Sacrament of Reconciliation / Sunday Mass*



WHAT TO DO?

Teenagers in the Catechumenate
+ Peer / Youth Ministry is the key.



WHAT TO USE
FOR
CATECHESIS?

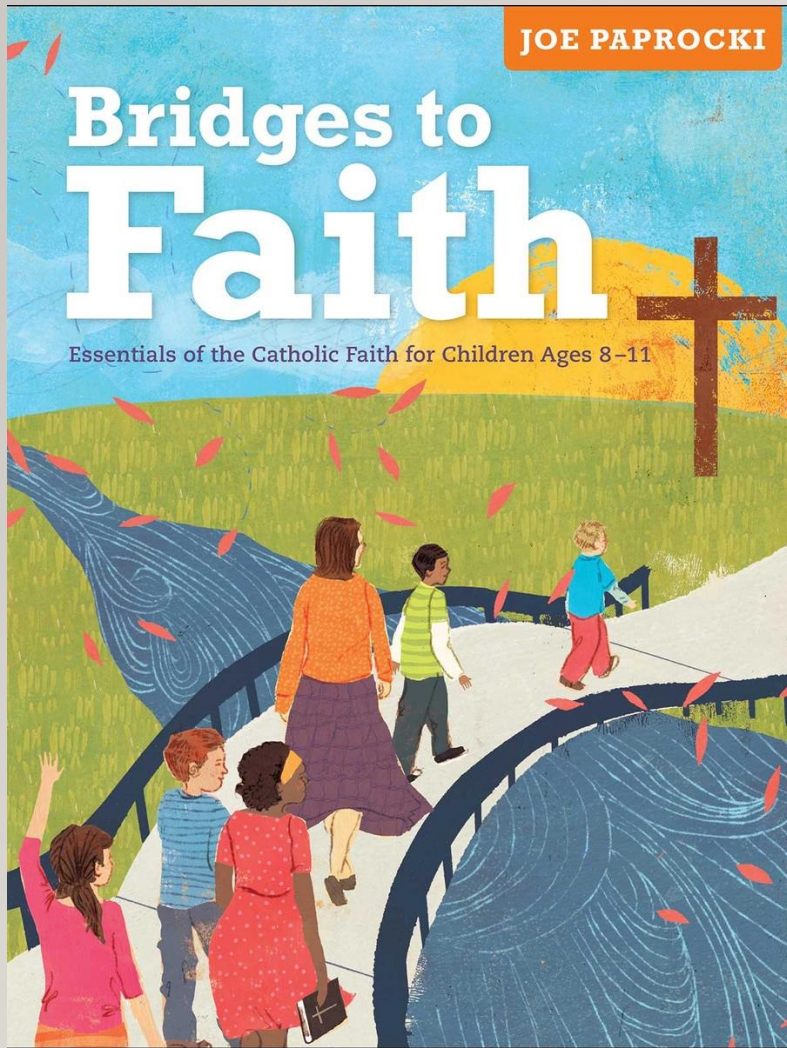
RESOURCES



RCL BENZIGER ...ONLINE RESOURCE

APPRENTICE IN FAITH - FOR ADULTS IN THE CATECHUMENATE (OCIA)

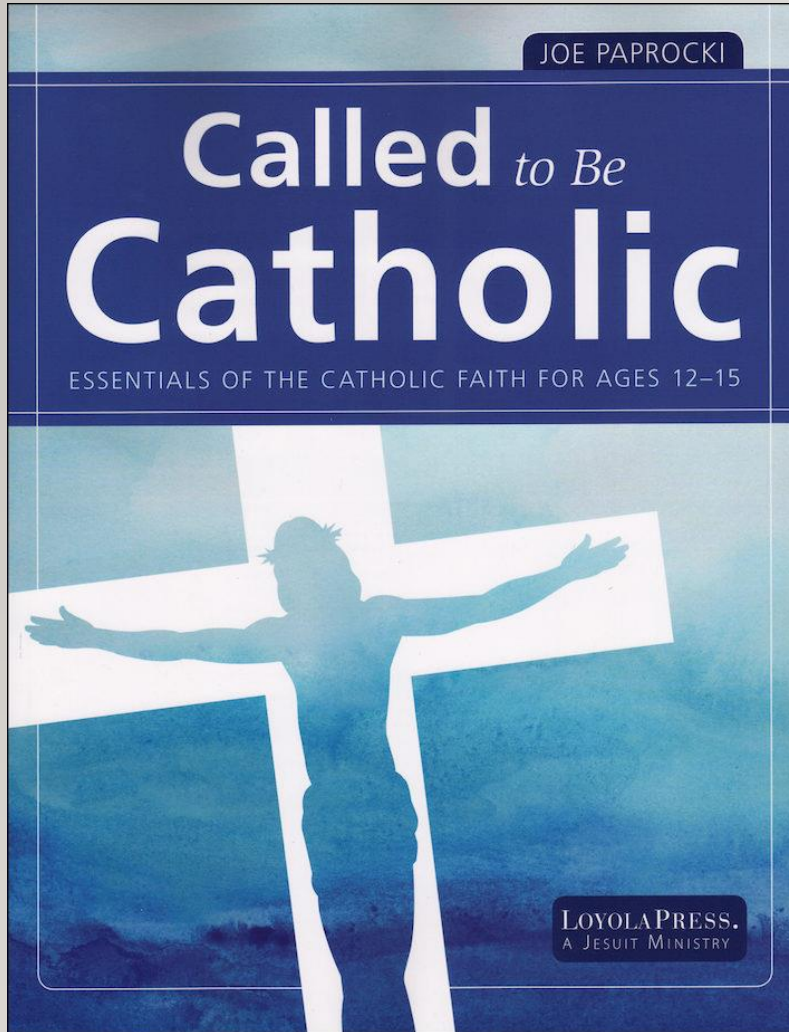
YOUNG APPRENTICES - FOR CHILDREN IN THE CATECHUMENATE (OCIA)



LOYOLA

Bridges to Faith

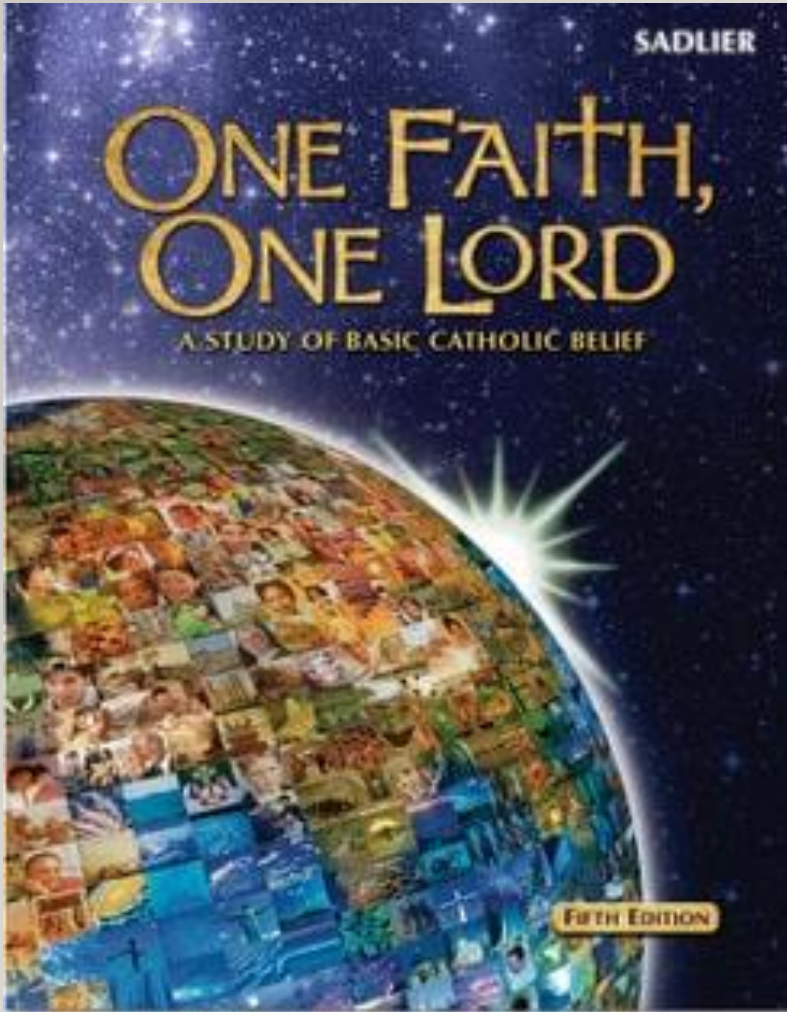
- Ages 8 to 11
- Same divisions as CCC
- Both English and Bilingual texts



LOYOLA

Called to be Catholic

- Ages 12 to 15
- Same divisions as CCC
- Both English and Bilingual texts

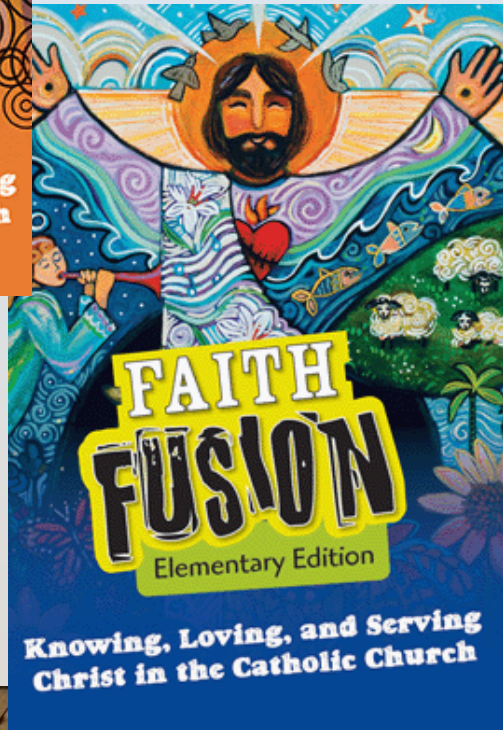
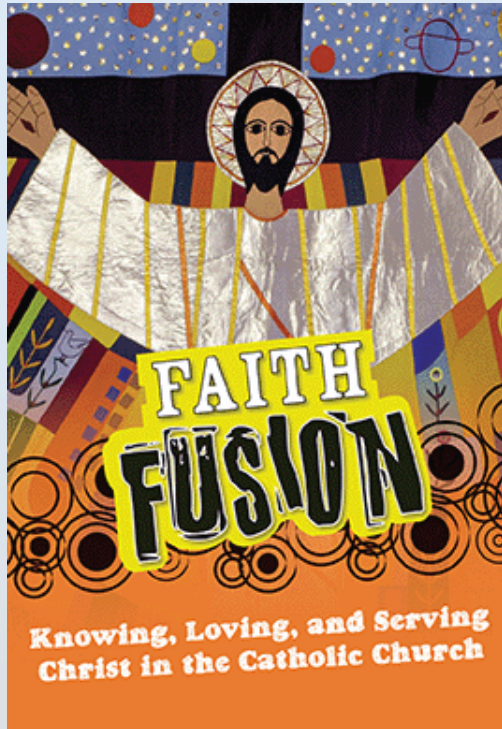


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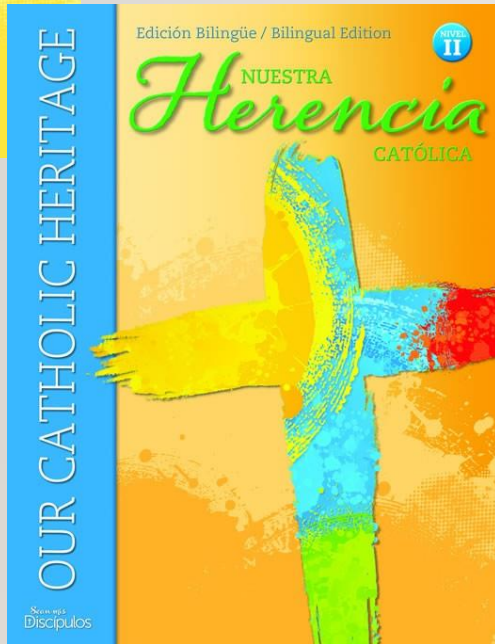
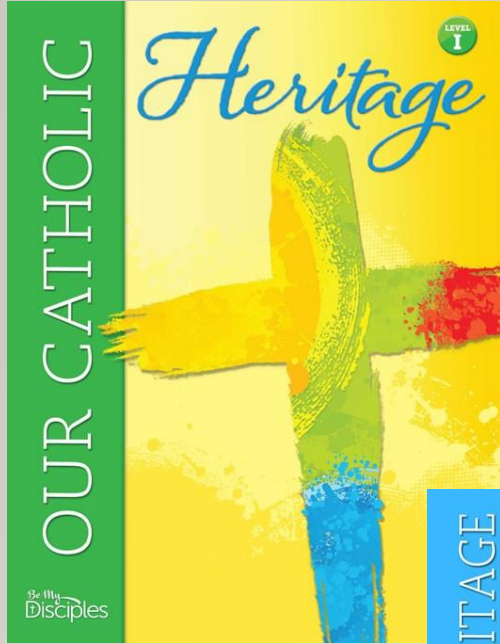
One Faith, One Lord

- Grade 7 to adult
- English and Bilingual

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR



- Elementary Edition
- Young adolescents Edition
- 4 units correspond to CCC
- English and Bilingual edition as well



RCL BENZIGER

Our Catholic Heritage

- Two levels: level 1 = Intermediate grades; level 2 = Junior High
- English and Bilingual

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AND THE
BAPTIZED TEEN WHO SEEKS PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION

Questions ???

