



ACM
Association for
CATECHUMENAL MINISTRY

Essential OCIA Preparations for Ash Wednesday

Supporting your mission as an OCIA Leader through your inbox.



As we approach Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, it's crucial to prepare for the next phase of your OCIA journey. Most groups will soon transition from the Catechumenate to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment through the "Second Step: Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names" (OCIA 118).

Key Preparation Steps:

1. Review your OCIA Rite book carefully, focusing on both the liturgies and the National Statutes' Norms regarding the Bishops' requirements for participant eligibility.

2. Locate the appropriate section based on your group's composition:

- Catechumens only: Chapter 1
- Validly baptized but not catechized candidates: Chapter V
- Validly baptized Catholic candidates: Chapter VI
- Mixed groups: Appendix I (Combined Rites)

The OCIA journey requires thorough attention to detail, from initial inquiry through the first year of mystagogy. This includes:

- Careful assessment of baptismal status
- Accurate record-keeping
- Proper documentation
- Thoughtful discernment of marital validity

Remember: While we maintain detailed records, **our ultimate goal is ministering to each individual**, helping them experience the abundant grace of incorporation into the Body of Christ. **There are no shortcuts in this sacred journey.**

The ACM OCIA Team is here to support you every step of the way.

Blessings on your ministry,

The ACM OCIA Team

**Association for Catechumenal
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