

RCIA Information Sheet

An Introduction and Explanation

Almost everyone who has worked with the RCIA, has ended up being put into an awkward situation by finding out at the last minute that the reception of a given catechumenate is either not possible or is going to entail some very difficult decisions that should not be made in a rushed manner. The examples are legion, but I will recount but two. First, at the retreat before the Rite of Acceptance, the director find out that Suzy Q.'s husband was previously married to a Roman Catholic. The purpose of this questionnaire is to avoid these last minute surprises and to enable us to deal with these problems in a proper, pastoral way.

These questions have been developed by looking at all the horror stories I have heard from priests and then asking: How could someone have found out about this problem sooner? What question(s) should have been asked at the start of the RCIA process?

There are a number of questions, which are designed to identify problems: moral, marriage, and pastoral. I will now identify those questions which should raise a warning flag for you so that the candidate can be properly pastured.

Developed by Reverend James J. Sercely.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The only problematic question in this section is where we ask: "Single, Married, Widow/widower, Divorced, Separated, Common-Law"

The answer "Divorced" or "Separated" will entail both pasturing and the Marriage Tribunal.

The answer Common-law (living together) will entail morality and pasturing.

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

If the answer to #2 ("Denomination of Baptism") is not a main line Christian Church, it must be determined if we accept the Baptism as valid.

If no certificate is available, the proof of the Baptism must be worked out.

Questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 are merely to help situate the condition of a Baptized Catholic who is returning to the Faith, or who was never fully instructed.

MARRIAGE HISTORY

This page is important, as the status of the marriage of the inquirer is so very important. If the Church cannot recognize the marriage of the Inquirer, it makes the reception into the Church a very difficult pastoral and moral question. This page is where most of the truly difficult problems will come to light.

Questions 5 and 6 are the ones that raise the warning flag. If the answer to either question is "Yes", you must proceed very carefully and with caution. There is no doubt that the marriage tribunal will need to become involved. If the previous spouses are deceased, the issue can be dealt with very easily.

If the answer to #5 and/or 6 is "Yes", you must make sure that you know of all previous marriages. All the questions under 5 or 6 must be answered for each marriage. If there are multiple marriages it makes the situation even more difficult.

RCIA INFORMATION SHEET

We welcome you, as you begin the process of looking at the Roman Catholic Church. We will do all that we can to help you on this Faith journey. The first thing we ask of you is that you complete this questionnaire.

This questionnaire is a useful tool so that we may serve you better and get to know you and your particular situation. It may seem to be long but each question is asked for a particular purpose, although that purpose may not apply to you specifically.

Please answer all questions that apply to you as fully as possible. The questions that do not apply to you should be left blank. For the “Yes” / “No” questions please check the appropriate box. If there are any questions that you do not understand or are uncomfortable with you may leave them blank and these can be discussed with either Father or the RCIA director.

Your answers will be treated as confidential and will only be seen by the RCIA director and the priest.

After you complete this questionnaire, an appointment will be set up for you with either the priest or the RCIA director.

May God bless you and be with you as you journey with us.

General Information

Today's Date: _____

Legal Name (including middle name): _____

Address: _____

Home/Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth (city & state): _____

Age: _____ Maiden name (if applicable): _____

Full Name of Mother (include maiden name): _____

Full Name of Father: _____

Your Occupation: _____

Marital Status (circle one of the following):

Single Married Widow/widower Divorced Separated Common-law (living together)

Present religious affiliation: _____

Children (if any); please indicate name, age and whether baptized:

Religious History

1. Are you Baptized? Yes No

If "No", move to Question 7

If "Yes", date of Baptism: _____

Name of Godparents: _____

2. If "Yes", what denomination: _____

Do you have access to a Baptismal certificate? Yes No Not sure

Place of Baptism (church, city and state):

3. If Roman Catholic, have you made your first Confession? Yes No Not sure

If "Yes", when and where? _____

4. If Roman Catholic, have you made your first Holy Communion?

Yes No Not sure

If "Yes", when and where? _____

5. If Roman Catholic, have you been Confirmed? Yes No Not sure

If "Yes", when and where? _____

6. At this point in time, which of the following statements best describes your present feelings / thoughts about the possibility of joining the church?

I need much more information about the Roman Catholic Church before I would consider joining.

I am considering joining, but I am still unsure about it.

I am fairly sure that I would like to join, but I need some time to study and pray about it.

I am very sure that I want to join the Roman Catholic Church.

Marriage History

1. Are you currently in a cohabitation arrangement? Yes No
(Are you living with girlfriend / boyfriend?)

2. Are you currently engaged to be married? Yes No Not sure

If "Yes": Name (of fiancée): _____

Address: _____

Religion: _____ Proposed wedding date: _____

3. Are you currently married? (If "No", move to #5) Yes No

Name of Spouse: _____

4. Date and place of marriage? _____

5. Does your spouse have any religious affiliation? Yes No Not sure

If "Yes", the religion of your spouse? _____

6. Were you ever married before? Yes No

If "Yes", how many times? _____

If "Yes", is he/she deceased? Yes No Not sure

If deceased, date of death: _____

If he/she is still alive:

Where were you married? _____

By whom? _____

Is your previous spouse a baptized Christian? Yes No Not sure

Is your previous spouse a Roman Catholic? Yes No Not sure

Have you ever applied for an annulment? Yes No Not sure

7. Was your current spouse ever married before? Yes No Not sure

If "Yes", how many times? _____

If "Yes", is he/she deceased? Yes No Not sure

If deceased, date of death: _____

If he/she is still alive:

Where were you married? _____

By whom? _____

Is your previous spouse a baptized Christian? Yes No Not sure

Is your previous spouse a Roman Catholic? Yes No Not sure

Have you ever applied for an annulment? Yes No Not sure

