**RCIA Check-In Call: Tuesday May 5, 2020 at 12:30 pm.**

***Meeting Notes***

**Opening Prayer** (A prayer when baptism is delayed by Diana Macalintal)

Link to prayer can be found here: <https://teamrcia.com/2020/04/a-prayer-when-baptism-is-delayed/>

**AoA Updates** (Andy Lichtenwalner):

* Bishops are discussing guidelines for re-opening parishes for public access to the Mass and sacraments. (Instructions were later issued on May 18—further updates expected to offer clarity on RCIA.)
* The Chancery building will remain closed to visitors through the end of May. (As of May 20, this may likely remain the case through June.)
* Installation of Archbishop Hartmayer can be watched here: <https://livestream.com/archatl/hartmayer/videos/205657081>

**RCIA History**(RCIA Leader Terry Zobel)

RCIA leader Terry Zobel shared a brief history and the current status of the Archdiocesan Forum for the RCIA. The Office of Divine Worship currently coordinates the Rite of Election. Many RCIA Forum members continue to help with Rite of Election. The Forum holds networking meetings, parish consultations, and workshops. There are currently 19 members, and the Forum is always interested in welcoming new members (e.g., currently, there are no members from Asian or Pacific Islander communities, and the invitation is extended to leaders from those communities and others to consider joining).

**Overview of Team RCIA** (Presented by RCIA Leader Judi Hornback)

* Team RCIA has filled the gap for RCIA promotion and support that was provided by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate since it dissolved in 2016.
* Team RCIA website: <https://teamrcia.com/>. Learn more about signing up for the newsletter, webinar participation, and optional membership there.
* Team RCIA has held two webinar events since the country has been in quarantine (March 26 and April 21); both are still available on the TeamRCIA website.
* April 21 webinar link: <https://teamrcia.com/2020/04/community-chat-scheduling-initiation-outside-of-easter/>
* Nick and Diane put together a two-page PDF file called “The Schedule” which is an outline of the events that need to occur and at what point of time they need to occur. Just be warned you have to work backwards to make it come together. First, we have to know when Baptism is going to occur. We are waiting on direction from the Archbishop. (See the AoA Instructions of May 18 with expected updates.)
* Team RCIA is having a webinar for planning for year-round RCIA on May 6 at 2pm.
* Continue to work with our Elect and candidates and give them hope.

**RCIA Leader Updates & Sharing**

***RCIA Sessions and Technology Use***

* A PCL mentioned classes ended a month ago and they did not venture into initiation. They want to know how to keep people engaged and want suggestions on reaching out and keeping them from being discouraged.
* A PCL suggested sending out emails to Elect/candidates. They send reminders to watch Mass, hold adoration every day, and hold Zoom sessions on Sundays. They do year-round RCIA at their parish.
* Another PCL has continued with Zoom. They have a small group compared to last year. Elect/candidates have been good about participating. PCL is a volunteer RCIA coordinator. PCL prays for Elect/candidates and asks them to pray for patients. Everyone is anxious about receiving the Eucharist.
* Another PCL says Zoom has enabled them to continue technologically and keep people together. Technology allows us to meet people’s needs and to reach out to people who cannot attend an RCIA session in person.
* A PCL shared they continue to meet weekly on Sundays by Zoom at 9am, followed by 10am web Mass; they have continued each session and had a mini retreat online. They have been snail mailing any items or prayers that are needed in hand.
* A PCL shared they continue to meet via Zoom, even though the curriculum had to be adapted since it cannot be mystagogy yet. They talk about issues like the Domestic Church and building a personal daily prayer life. They do not have a curriculum for the summer months but are looking at having a book discussion group. They are using this as an opportunity to move more fully into a year-round model.
* A PCL shared that not all the people in their Spanish cohort have a computer, but they do have phones. They are keeping in touch through email, text and WhatsApp.
* A PCL had a question about the scrutinies. They mentioned that one person at the parish did not attend the first scrutiny because of fear of Covid-19. If a catechumen did not attend the first scrutiny, what do they do with that person.
  + A PCL responded that the scrutiny would be the next thing they need to do and would have to do at least one for the person who has to be baptized.
  + [Note from OFD: There are circumstances where the celebration of a scrutiny can be incorporated into an expanded, abbreviated form of the Rite, with a bishop’s permission (See Christian Initiation of Adults in Exceptional Circumstances in the RCIA text). If a pastor has questions about this, he should consult with the Archbishop.]
* Another PCL shared they did the first scrutiny on March 14 and are keeping in touch via Zoom and encouraging sponsors to keep in close contact with their person. The parish does year-round RCIA.
* A PCL shared they have followed the university calendar but are now morphing into year-round to address current circumstances. Four new folks have joined through Zoom. Waiting for new leadership at the Catholic Center on July 1.
* A PCL had a question about media and reaching out to more people. The parish is very rural and not many people attend. Wants to know if in the future RCIA classes can be held on Facebook Live to get people interested. Would that be something they can begin?
  + OFD staff responded that everyone needs to think about planning for virtual formation as they continue to move forward, given the unknowns with Covid-19. PCLs also have to be attentive over-saturation with the virtual (as well as to those who do not have technology access). Think about it strategically, and take a hybrid approach.
  + Another PCL responded that they could not build relationships from a distance all the time. They need that relationship building which could only be done face-to-face. They also suggested using a hybrid approach.

***ACC Update***

* A PCL brought up the topic of the ACC and wanted to know if it was cancelled.
* OFD staff responded that officially the ACC has not been cancelled. The planning committee is looking into virtual options. Official decision has not been made and will be finalized by Archbishop Hartmayer. More information to come.

***Sacrament of Confirmation***

* A PCL asked if anyone could tell them whether there was a blanket delegation offered by the Bishop with respect to pastors administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. Archbishop Gregory had a blanket permission granted but wants to know if that still stands.
* OFD staff and all responded yes, there is a blanket delegation still in place.

The guidance from Bishop Konzen re: candidates (from March 27): "Likewise, in accordance with Church law, priests may celebrate the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church at any time for those adults and children of catechetical age who have a valid baptism in another Christian community. Priests may schedule receptions at the earliest opportunity after civic restrictions on gatherings have been lifted and the Office of the Archbishop permits."

***Team RCIA Links to Cheat Sheet***

* English: <https://mcusercontent.com/e910c4ce1ad5971fa2da271da/files/49667df8-e4b2-4918-961a-a8f18adc8e70/RCIA_Cheat_Sheet.pdf>
* Spanish: <https://mcusercontent.com/e910c4ce1ad5971fa2da271da/files/8eb7286e-0ee6-4462-b104-9364b3ea9164/Hoja_de_Ref.pdf>