



# NewsLetter

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Volume LX

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**Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!**  
**¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En verdad ha resucitado!**

The Committee on Divine Worship  
and the Staff of the Secretariat of Divine Worship  
Wish You a Blessed Easter!

## **Dicastery for Bishops Confirms *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults***

In a decree dated January 9, 2024 (Prot. n. 778/2005), the Dicastery for Bishops confirmed the *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults*, which will replace the 1988 *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* as particular law for the dioceses of the United States regarding the Initiation process.

The 1988 *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* contained 37 paragraphs and included not only particular law for the United States but also norms contained in the ritual text or the universal law. In their study of these norms, the Chairmen of the Committees on Divine Worship, Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, and Evangelization and Catechesis directed that they be shortened so that they are truly legislative, complementary to the universal law, and unique to this country.

In this light, the new *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults* contains only eighteen Norms. The confirmed text of the new statutes is printed on pages 15-16 of this issue for informational purposes only. The statutes will also be printed in ritual and study editions of the newly-confirmed *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (OCIA), and a Spanish translation will appear in the revised *Ritual de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos* (RICA).

Finally, the above-mentioned Committees are currently in the process of developing a compendium on the OCIA/RICA, which will include the content of the 1988 *National Statutes*, indicating their source in the ritual text or the universal law.

## **Implementation Dates Set for English and Spanish *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults***

As announced in the previous issue of the *Newsletter*, the English and Spanish editions of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (OCIA) and *Ritual de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos* (RICA) were confirmed by the Holy See on February 14, 2024. Following the customary editorial review period by the Secretariat of Divine Worship, a timeline for implementation was recommended to and approved by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, USCCB President, in a decree of promulgation issued Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

The revised OCIA–RICA may first be used on the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024, and the mandatory implementation date has been set for Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. The USCCB decree of promulgation of the OCIA is reprinted on the following page for the benefit of our readers.

In addition, after the confirmation of the *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults*, that text was referred to the Secretariat of Doctrine for a review period. Following their recommendation, Archbishop Broglio promulgated the statutes on April 25, 2024, fixing the implementation date for the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024, at which time the 1988 *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* will be abrogated. That decree is also reprinted below.

### **March 2024 Meeting of the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish**

The Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish met on March 5, 2024 at the St. Eugène de Mazenod Renewal Center in San Juan, Texas, on the campus of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan de la Valle. Major topics of action and discussion centered on the *Leccionario* and *Liturgia de las Horas*.

For the future U.S. *Leccionario*, members approved using the Mexican translation of the four Sequences of Easter, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, and Our Lady of Sorrows. This action largely completes the approval of non-Scriptural elements to be drawn from the Mexican *Leccionario* into the new U.S. edition. Elements using Sacred Scripture (readings, psalms, *tituli*, etc.) will be taken from the future Spanish-language liturgical Bible, the *Biblia de la Iglesia en América*; when that project is completed, the assembly of the U.S. *Leccionario* will begin in earnest. The Subcommittee also reviewed and approved a new translation of the opening decrees, which were not translated previously in the *Leccionario* for other Spanish-speaking countries.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to the review and approval of the Spanish translation of U.S. proper texts and adaptations to the *Liturgia de las Horas*. English texts and translations of mostly Second Readings in the Office of Readings for the saints and blesseds found in the U.S. proper calendar, and additional minor textual adaptations for the breviary, were approved at the June 2023 and November 2023 USCCB plenary meetings. With the English texts completed, it was judged appropriate to prepare a Spanish version as well. Following confirmation by the Holy See, a fascicle will be published that can be used with any Spanish edition of the *Liturgia de las Horas*.

Finally, in light of the recent confirmation of the revised Spanish edition of the *Ritual de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos* and its English counterpart, the Subcommittee provided input on what bilingual ritual editions would be appropriate to publish for use in the United States. To preserve the integrity of the Initiation rites, members suggested only full bilingual editions be permitted but no abridged editions.

The next meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for September 11-12, 2024 in Washington, DC.

**USCCB Decrees of Promulgation for the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* and  
*National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults***

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
DECREE OF PROMULGATION

In accord with the norms established by the Holy See, this edition of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* is declared to be the definitive approved English translation of the *Ordo initiationis christianae adultorum, editio typica* (1972), and is hereby promulgated by authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* was canonically approved for use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on November 17, 2021, and was subsequently confirmed by the Apostolic See by decree of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on February 14, 2024 (Prot. n. 234/22).

This rite may be used in the Liturgy as of the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024, and its use is obligatory as of Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. From that date forward, no other English translation of the rite may be used in the dioceses of the United States of America.

Given at the General Secretariat of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC, on March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.

✠ Timothy P. Broglio  
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Rev. Michael J.K. Fuller  
General Secretary

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
DECREE OF PROMULGATION

On November 15, 2023, the Latin Church members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults* implementing canon 788 §3 of the Code of Canon Law for the dioceses of the United States of America.

In accord with Article 110 of the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Francis, *Praedicate Evangelium*, the approved Statutes were granted *recognitio* by the Apostolic See, in a decree dated January 9, 2024 (Prot. N° 778/2005) signed by Robert Cardinal Prevost, O.S.A., Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, and His Excellency Most Reverend Ilson de Jesus Montanari, Secretary of the Dicastery.

Wherefore, as President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I hereby decree that the effective date of the *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults* in the dioceses of the United States of America will be December 1, 2024, the First Sunday of Advent. Following the effective date, the National Statutes for the Catechumenate approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on November 11, 1986 are abrogated.

Given at the offices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in the city of Washington, the District of Columbia, on April 25, 2024, Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist.

✠ Timothy P. Broglio  
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Rev. Michael J.K. Fuller  
General Secretary

## DDWDS Confirms *Order of Religious Profession*

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed a new English translation of the *Order of Religious Profession* for liturgical use in the dioceses of the United States, in a decree dated April 25, 2024 (Prot. n. 55/24). The Latin typical edition of this rite was promulgated in 1970, and the substance of the current English translation dates from 1974 with some changes made in a subsequent printing following the promulgation of the *Code of Canon Law* in 1983. A part of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy's (ICEL) ongoing work of retranslation guided by the principles outlined in *Liturgiam authenticam* and *Postquam Summus Pontifex*, the Gray Book of this text was transmitted to ICEL's member Conferences in April 2023, and the USCCB approved that text at its November 2023 plenary meeting. The Secretariat of Divine Worship will carry out its usual editorial review process before recommending a timetable for implementation to Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, USCCB President.

According to the Order's Introduction, "Religious families should take the responsibility to adapt the rite in a fitting manner, so that it may better reflect and manifest the nature and spirit of each institute" (no. 14), and "[M]any formulas for the rite of profession may be changed; indeed, they must be, in order to reflect the nature and spirit of the institute" (no. 14d). These adaptations are submitted by each Institute to the Holy See for approval. Therefore, since the book is not intended to be used as-is, it is likely that, as with the previous two editions (1975 and 1989), only a study edition will be published; no ritual editions are planned.

After the Introduction, the ritual book is composed of two parts: Part I, the Order of Religious Profession of Men, and Part II, the Order of Religious Profession for Women. While the *editio typica* and the current English translation divide and number these two parts independently, the upcoming English edition will divide and number the two parts consecutively: Part I, Chapters I-V, nos. 1-147; and Part II, Chapters VI-X, nos. 148-310. An unnumbered Appendix follows Part II.

An unofficial English translation of the decree of confirmation is printed for the benefit of our readers:

### DICASTERY FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS

Prot. n. 55/24

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the request of His Excellency the Most Reverend Timothy Paul Broglio, Archbishop Military Ordinary and President of the Conference of Bishops of the United States of America, in a letter dated January 17, 2024, and by virtue of the faculty granted to this Dicastery by the Supreme Pontiff FRANCIS, we gladly confirm the text of the English translation of the part of the Roman Ritual entitled *Ordo professionis religiosae*, approved on November 15, 2023 by the same Conference of Bishops according to the norm of law, as found in the attached copy.

In printed editions, this decree must be inserted in its entirety. Moreover, two copies of the printed text should be forwarded to this Dicastery.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the offices of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, April 25, 2024, the Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist.

Arthur Card. Roche  
Prefect

✠ Vittorio Francesco Viola, O.F.M.  
Archbishop Secretary

## Various Biblical and Liturgical Texts for Distributing Holy Communion outside Mass and in the Adoration and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament

*Concluding the catechetical series of the forthcoming Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass, attention turns to chapter IV, “Various Texts to Be Used...” Chapter I, “Holy Communion outside Mass,” was explored in the January 2024 Newsletter; the July–August and September 2023 issues discussed chapter II on Communion rites by extraordinary ministers; and chapter III on Eucharistic adoration, processions, and congresses was explored in the May, June, and July–August 2022 Newsletters.*

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### Variations on a Theme

The availability of optional texts is a common feature of the Church’s post-conciliar liturgical books, and *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass* (HCWEMOM) is no exception to this pattern. Indeed, half of this ritual book consists of chapter IV, “Various Texts to Be Used in Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass and in the Adoration and Procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament.” These options exist not for the sake of variety but rather to serve the pastoral effectiveness of liturgical celebrations.

Chapter VII of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, “The Choice of the Mass and Its Parts,” underlines the care that is necessary when choosing texts and provides helpful guidance for those preparing liturgical celebrations (cf. GIRM, no. 352). Certain prayers and readings may better reflect the needs of the faithful, the mystery being celebrated, the circumstances of the occasion, or the liturgical season. Adapting celebrations to the pastoral needs of the time, place, and circumstance by carefully selecting texts assists the faithful to participate more devotedly and disposes them to receive the sacraments more fruitfully.

### Readings, Hymns, and Prayers for the Eucharistic Mystery

Chapter IV is divided into eight sections: biblical readings, an alternate greeting, alternate forms of the Penitential Act (drawn from the *Roman Missal*), hymns, antiphons, responsories, Prayers after Communion, and Prayers at Benediction. The biblical readings provided for a Liturgy of the Word include passages that prefigure the Eucharist. Other readings recall the paschal sacrifice, God’s covenant, Christ as priest and victim, and the eschatological banquet. A notable subsection includes the readings for the Votive Mass of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially recommended for use in distributing Holy Communion outside Mass (HCWEMOM, no. 29).

The antiphons of this chapter may be used at the Shorter Rite of Communion of the Sick, and the hymns, antiphons, and responsories are appropriately used as songs during periods of exposition (cf. no. 89). Much of this material comes from the *Liturgy of the Hours*: hymns of Corpus Christi (nos. 192-194), the Ascension (no. 195), and from the Ascension until Pentecost (no. 196); Magnificat antiphons of Corpus Christi (nos. 200, 201) and another from Thursday of the 3rd Week of Easter (no. 203); and long responsories for Thursday of the 3rd Week of Easter (no. 205), Thursday of the 5th Week of Easter (no. 209), Tuesday of the 6th Week of Easter (no. 207), Corpus Christi (no. 206), Wednesday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time (no. 208), and Saturday of the 15th Week in Ordinary Time (no. 204).

Alternative Prayers after Communion come from various formularies of the *Roman Missal*: the Second Sunday of Advent (no. 213), the Second Sunday of Lent (no. 214), the Easter Vigil (no. 220), Wednesday within the Octave of Easter (no. 221), Thursday of the Second Week of Easter (no. 222), the First Week in Ordinary Time (no. 215), the 2nd, 5th, 22nd, and 32nd Sundays of Ordinary Time (nos. 211, 216, 217, and 218, respectively), the Ritual Mass for the Administering of Viaticum (no. 223), and the Votive Mass of the Most Holy Eucharist (nos. 210, 212). The other Prayer after Communion (no. 219) is an adaptation of a prayer from the Common of Martyrs (section II, A, 2). The Prayers at Benediction (nos. 224-228) are derived from the *Processionale Parisiense* of 1690, and no. 229 is an adaptation of the Collect for the Votive Mass of the Most Precious Blood.

The relationship of these prayers to certain celebrations of the liturgical year informs their use in worship; the distribution of Communion, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and eucharistic processions should always be

connected to the liturgical time in which they occur. For example, during Easter the theme of the Paschal Mystery could be drawn out (cf. hymn no. 195, antiphon no. 200, Communion prayers nos. 220-222, Benediction prayer no. 229); or during Advent, the Lord's coming in history and at the end of the ages (cf. hymn nos. 192 and 196, antiphon no. 202, Communion prayer no. 213, Benediction prayer no. 224). In this time of Eucharistic revival for the United States, a careful but creative use of various texts is an opportunity to express more fully the riches of the Eucharistic mystery, one which serves the devoted and fruitful celebration of the liturgy.



### **2026 Liturgical Calendar Posted to USCCB Website**

The 2026 edition of the *Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America* has been posted online by the Secretariat for Divine Worship in for free PDF download. The latest edition is available, together with the 2024 and 2025 editions, at [USCCB.org/committees/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar](https://usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar).

The calendar lists each day's celebration, rank, liturgical color, Lectionary citations, and Psalter cycle. Since last year, the Secretariat has been endeavoring to provide the newest calendar around April 1 each year in PDF format. Those who wish to receive a printed copy in 8½ × 11" paperback format for \$20 per printed copy may contact the Secretariat through the USCCB website or the mailing address at the front of the *Newsletter*.

### **Subscription Renewals for 2024 Newsletter**

Renewal forms for the 2024 *Newsletter* will be mailed to current subscribers in April. Subscribers are asked to complete their renewal process with payment by May 31, 2024 to ensure continuing service. Starting this year, the Secretariat can accept electronic payments by credit card or ACH through the online service Stripe, instructions for which will be found on the renewal form. Those who have not received a renewal notice by May 6, or who would like to make changes to their account, can request customer service through the online form found at [USCCB.org/committees/divine-worship/newsletter](https://usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/newsletter), or by contacting David Ringwald at (202) 541-3060 or [dringwald@usccb.org](mailto:dringwald@usccb.org).

New individual subscriptions are available for \$15 a year (hard-copy or digital formats); requests may be made online through the above website or sent to the Secretariat of Divine Worship at 3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017, ATTN: Newsletter Subscriptions. Back issues of the *Newsletter* from 2011 to the present are available in PDF format at the above website, and back issues for 2019–2023 in hard-copy are available from the Secretariat at \$1 per issue. Special bulk order prices are available for orders of 20 copies or more.

## National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults

Approved November 15, 2023 by the USCCB, Confirmed January 9, 2024 by the Holy See

### Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate

*Norm 1* – The evangelization of unbaptized persons during the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate will lead them through Scripture, prayer, and friendly conversation to an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ as the fullness of God’s revelation.

*Norm 2* – Early in the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate, a parochial minister will meet inquirers individually to hear of their “first faith” (see *The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* [OCIA] 42), discern the continuing impact of their encounter with the Lord, and discuss any issues (e.g., an irregular marriage) that could affect their eventual celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation.

### Period of the Catechumenate

*Norm 3* – The term “catechumen” is to be strictly reserved for the unbaptized who have entered the catechumenate and who are joined to the Church in a special way while they strive to lead a life of faith, hope, and charity (CIC c. 206 §1).

*Norm 4* – Ordinarily, a person who has entered the catechumenate is to remain in it from at least the Easter Time of one year until the beginning of the Easter Time of the next year; preferably it should begin before Lent in one year and extend until Easter of the following year.

*Norm 5* –

§1. As a general rule, the preparation of catechumens for the Sacraments of Initiation takes place in a parochial setting or its equivalent.

§2. Catechumens prepared at a center, school, prison, or other institution are to be introduced into the Christian life of a parish or similar community, insofar as possible from the very beginning of the catechumenate, so that after their Initiation and Mystagogy they will not find themselves isolated from the ordinary life of the Christian people.

*Norm 6* – The formation of catechumens is to be comprehensive. It is to be:

1° suited to the liturgical year and supported by the Church’s liturgy;

2° rooted in Sacred Scripture, the truths of Catholic doctrine and the moral life, and aided by catechetical texts, such as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, texts based upon that Catechism, such as the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, and other texts approved by the local ordinary;

3° exercised in works of service and charity (OCIA 75).

*Norm 7* – While unbaptized persons in irregular marriages can enter the catechumenate, they are not to celebrate the Rite of Election until they are free to enter a canonical marriage.

*Norm 8* – Upon entry into the catechumenate, catechumens incur the following obligations:

1° They are to participate in the Liturgy of the Word, preferably on Sundays and other holy days of obligation, with the community if possible (see OCIA 81);

2° They will continually purify their motivation for Baptism, live an upright life, and be ready to witness to their conversion to Christ, as they seek to grow in their knowledge of and assent to what the Church believes and teaches (CIC cc. 206 and 865 §1).

*Norm 9* –

§1. In addition to the prerogatives granted in universal law (see CIC cc. 1170 and 1183 §1 and OCIA 47), catechumens may:

1° participate in the apostolic and charitable works of the Church, especially works of mercy;

2° take advantage of opportunities given to Catholic parents in the parish or region concerning the enrollment for their children in Catholic schools;

3° be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

§2. If it seems appropriate, the diocesan bishop can establish other prerogatives.

*Norm 10* – It is praiseworthy that catechumens be dismissed from the liturgical assembly, at least on Sundays, after the Homily and before the Creed to reflect on the Word of God just proclaimed.

*Norm 11* – Because liturgical ministries arise from Christian Baptism, it is inappropriate for catechumens to proclaim the Word of God or serve at the altar during the liturgy.

### **Period of Purification and Enlightenment**

*Norm 12* – The Elect, as well as those who assist them and participate in the celebration of the Easter Vigil with them, are encouraged to keep and extend the paschal fast of Good Friday, as determined by CIC canon 1251, throughout the day of Holy Saturday until the end of the Vigil itself (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 110, and OCIA 185/1).

### **Period of Mystagogy**

*Norm 13* – Following the Period of Mystagogy, and to the extent possible, neophytes may benefit from meeting periodically to deepen their Christian formation, especially through opportunities that enhance their participation in the life of the parish or similar community (see OCIA 244 and 245).

### **Registration of Initiation-Related Acts**

*Norm 14* –

§1. The register of those who have entered the catechumenate is to be kept in the parish archive.

§2. In addition to those things required by OCIA 46, the pastor is to see that the date and place of birth of the catechumens are inscribed in the register.

*Norm 15* – The Book of the Elect, in which the catechumens enroll their names in anticipation of the Sacraments of Initiation (OCIA 119), is to be kept in the archives of the parish or of the diocese, unless diocesan law directs otherwise.

*Norm 16* –

§1. The register of those received into the full communion of the Catholic Church is to be kept in the parish archive.

§2. In addition to those things required by OCIA 486, the pastor is to see that the date and place of birth of the candidate are inscribed in the register, with mention made of the minister, parents, sponsors, and the date and place of Reception into full communion.

§3. If married, a notation of the spouse, date and place of marriage should be noted in the register. Any future marriage is also to be noted in the register.

### **Rites for Particular Circumstances**

*Norm 17* – It is for the diocesan bishop:

1° to appoint a qualified person to promote, direct, and coordinate the Christian Initiation of Adults in his diocese;

2° to issue norms concerning the qualifications for and training of catechists;

3° to approve the use of catechetical texts for the formation of catechumens and candidates for Reception into full communion (see Norm 6, 2° above);

4° to issue norms for the Simpler Order of Adult Initiation and for the preparation of baptized but uncatechized adults for Confirmation and Eucharist and for the reception of validly baptized Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

*Norm 18* – The term “convert” is reserved strictly for those converted to Christian belief and never used of those baptized Christians who are received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

*When these statutes take effect on December 1, 2024, the National Statutes for the Catechumenate approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on November 11, 1986, and confirmed by the Congregation for Divine Worship on June 26, 1988, are abrogated.*