



Diocese of
Fall River
Southeastern MA • Cape Cod • The Islands

Secretariat for
**The New
Evangelization**

Here is how the OCIA describes signs of growth, first with regard to readiness to participate in the Rite of Entrance (see OCIA #42):

- The “beginnings of a spiritual life and the foundation of Christian doctrine have been planted”
- “First faith” has been “conceived”
- “Initial conversion” a “desire to change their lives and enter a relationship with God in Christ”
- The “beginning of a sense of penitence”
- “A habit of calling to God in prayer”
- “A sense of the church”
- “A first experience of the company and spirit of Christians”
- “Preparation for this liturgical order”

In OCIA #43 it says that “Before the Rite (of Entrance) is celebrated, a period of time is set aside, suitable and appropriate to each case, for investigating and, if necessary, purifying their motives for conversion.”

OCIA #75-76 takes up the question of readiness with regard to the catechumenate proper. Here is the breakdown of the signs mentioned which should be present prior to the Rite of Election:

- “Appropriate catechesis” has been “given by Priests, Deacons and Catechists” which has been “divided into steps and fully presented.”
- They should:
 - Have “not only a suitable knowledge of dogmas and precepts, but also an intimate knowledge of the mystery of salvation, which they desire to make their own”
 - Be “familiar with the practice of the Christian life”
 - Be “helped by the example of sponsors and godparents (I think we can add “parents”)
 - “Grow accustomed to praying more easily to God”
 - “Witness to the faith”
 - Keep “an expectation of Christ in all things”
 - “Follow inspiration from above in their works”
 - “Show charity to their neighbor even to renunciation of themselves”
 - Have “a progressive change of outlook and morals” which becomes evident in its social consequences and gradually developed”
 - Be learning “to cooperate actively in evangelization and the building up of the Church by the testimony of their life and their profession of faith”