

## **Catechumenate is the Model for All Catechesis**

(excerpted from Diocesan Catechetical Manual, Section II. Policy, pages 13)

The *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) explains that the catechumenate or RCIA process (what we do to bring those who have reached the age of reason into the Church) is the model of all catechesis (cf. GDC 59, 90).

### **DISTINCTION: BAPTISM**

First, catechists must keep in mind that catechesis is substantially distinct from the catechumenate in its starting point. Catechesis, outside of the catechumenate, begins with a person who is baptized, thus the catechist can assume the potentiality of the baptismal graces while catechizing. (cf. CCC 1262-1274) Their status differs from catechumens. By their Baptism, they are already members of the Church and children of God. The basis of their conversion is Baptism whose power they must develop. (cf. RCIA 9, 400, GDC 90)

### **ELEMENTS OF INSPIRATION**

After noting this substantial difference, we are now ready to consider those elements of the catechumenate that should inspire our other forms of catechesis.

- the catechumenate constantly reminds the whole Church of the fundamental and vital importance of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist and thus to all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is the responsibility of all the baptized and thus all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is also completely permeated by the mystery of Jesus' life, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension and thus all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is open to all people and thus all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is a process of formation that simultaneously involves liturgical, catechetical and pastoral aspects and thus all other catechesis.