

Gathered and Sent: Catechumenal Formation and Mission  
Montreal, Quebec  
July 25-28, 2002

## Workshop: Terminology... Becoming Bilingual

*Description:* A workshop to discover and expand our common language in catechumenal ministry. We will employ presentation and sharing to get at awareness of our varied languages for communicating about the who, what, how and why of the catechumenate.

*Learning Tools:* Terminology Chart

*Outline:*

- I. Sharing experience and stories of “cross-cultural” terminology and language
- II. Why is being “bilingual” and “multilingual” a good thing?
- III. Why the differences in catechumenal terms?
  - A. our varied polities and perceptives lenses
  - B. relative valuing of tradition and accessibility
  - C. the bias of leaders and writers
- IV. Are there value-free, unbiased terms for catechumenal ministry? What is the valued added for diverse terminology? What can we learn from a variety of approaches?
  - A. the obvious answer
  - B. factors shaping terminology:
    1. historic language
    2. functional language
    3. linkage to familiar terms
    4. blending of terms
- V. Terminology charts—What Do You See?
- VI. Dialogue: Some prompting questions
  - A. What terms do you find that bring clarity or insight to your traditions understanding and terminology?
  - B. What terms do you find confusing or theologically/pastorally problematic? Why?

## Comparative Terminology Used for the Catechumenate

<b>Stages/persons</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> stage/period</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> stage/period</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> stage/period</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> stage/period</b>
Roman Catholic	Precatechumenate	Catechumenate <i>Catechumens</i>	Purification & Enlightenment <i>Elect</i>	Post-baptismal Catechesis or Mystagogia <i>Neophytes</i>
Episcopal/ECUSA	Precatechumenal <i>Inquirers</i>	Catechumenate <i>Catechumens</i>	Candidacy for Baptism <i>Candidates</i>	Post-baptismal Catechesis <i>The baptized</i>
Lutheran/ELCA	Inquiry <i>Inquirers</i>	Catechumenate <i>Catechumens</i>	Baptismal Preparation <i>Candidates</i>	Baptismal Living <i>Newly Baptized</i>
Anglican Church in Canada	Evangelization	Catechumenate <i>Catechumen</i>	Candidacy <i>Candidates</i>	Mystagogy
United Methodist	Inquiry <i>Inquirer</i>	Formation <i>Hearer</i>	Intensive Preparation <i>Candidate</i>	Integration <i>Newly Baptized</i>
Mennonite	Invitation <i>Seekers</i>	Inquiry & Exploration <i>Thoughtful Inquirers</i>	Preparation for Baptism <i>New Christians</i>	Post-Baptism
<b>Rites</b>	<b>End of 1<sup>st</sup> stage/period</b>	<b>End of 2<sup>nd</sup> stage/period</b>	<b>End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage/period</b>	<b>End of 4<sup>th</sup> stage/period</b>
Roman Catholic	Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens	Rite of Election	Holy Baptism	
Episcopal/ECUSA	Admission of Catechumens	Enrollment of Candidates for Baptism	Holy Baptism	
Lutheran/ELCA	Welcome of Inquirers to the Catechumenate	Enrollment of Candidates for Baptism	Baptism and Communion at the Vigil of Easter	Affirmation of Vocation of the Baptized
Anglican Church in Canada	Accepting a Catechumen	Calling Candidates to Baptism	Baptism	
United Methodist	Welcoming a Hearer	Calling to Baptism	Baptism	Affirmation of Ministry in the World
Mennonite	Service of Welcome	Service of Decision	Service of Baptism	

## Comparative Terminology for Ministry to Persons Returning to the Baptismal Covenant

<b>Stage/Rite</b>	<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>Episcopal</b>	<b>Lutheran</b>	<b>Anglican/ Canada</b>	<b>United Methodist</b>
Inquiry			Inquiry <i>Inquirers</i>	Evangelization (What do you seek?)	Inquiry
<i>Rite</i>	Welcome into the community and recognition of the seal of baptism already given*	Welcoming the Baptized Christians into a Community	Welcome of Inquirers for Affirmation of Baptism <i>Affirmers</i>	Welcoming a Returning Member	Welcoming a Returning Member
Formation			Affirmation	Restoration (Are you persuaded that this person is ready to join us in this time of discipline, in submission to the Spirit of Christ?)	Formation in Faith and Ministry
<i>Rite</i>		Calling the Baptized to Continuing Conversion	Calling of the Baptized to Continuing Conversion <i>Candidates</i>	Call to Conversion	Calling the Baptized to Continuing Conversion
Intensive Preparations	Lent*		Candidacy	Penitence	Immediate preparation for Affirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

<i>Rite</i>	Profess their faith at the Easter Vigil [Receive confirmation and] share the Eucharist*	Maundy Thursday Rite for Baptized Persons in Preparation for the Paschal Holy Days	Affirmation of Baptism <i>Newly Affirmed</i>	Celebration of Reconciliation (Do you turn again to Christ and forgive those who sinned against you?)	Celebration of Reconciliation (Holy Thursday) and Reaffirmation (Easter)
Integration	Post-baptismal catechesis or mystagogy with the newly baptized	Post-baptismal catechesis			Call to Mission and Reflection on the Sacraments
<i>Rite</i>			Affirmation of the Vocation of the Baptized in the World		Affirmation of Ministry in the World

## Appendix I:

Jim Schellman's comments at The Consultation on Common Texts meeting in New York City, April 30, 2002. Excerpt from the minutes:

He [Jim] stated that together we need to be intentional in forming disciples. The catechumenate is also about all other things we are doing as church–adult formation, evangelism. Jim asked if we are going to lay hold of this in a way that is true to the historical catechumenate and true to this moment, true to the ancient world and also speaks to us now. He explained that if evangelization is our mission, then the job description is initiation. Initiation leads us to the water and then to the table in a world that is not very well.

Forum is currently involved in several ecumenical ventures: for example, a pilot project in a Lutheran setting and with a Canadian Anglican institute in adapting rituals. He wants to expand this vision. (The North American Forum on the Catechumenate is currently out of existence.)

Jim suggested a common vision. His hope is for us to move toward a common vigil. This hope is in anticipation of moving to a common font and table. He suggested the following possibilities for collaboration:

1. Joint ritual materials.
2. Research into what is happening with the catechumenate among communions.
3. Collaborative formation events.
4. Comparative studies in the catechumenate rites/rituals and resources now available

Books consulted in developing the comparative terminology: (updated 1 5 15)

*The Book of Occasional Services 2003* (The Church Publishing, 2004) See pages 112ff. For “Preparation of Baptized Persons for Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant” see pages 136ff.

*Come to the Waters: Baptism and Our Ministry of Welcoming Seekers and Making Disciples* by Daniel T. Benedict Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 1996. See chart on pages 34-35 and 43, and word list on pages 151-153.

“Making Disciples: the Catechumenate in the Anglican Church”  
<http://www.anglican.ca/faith/worship/catechumenate/> (Portal for ACC resources and rites.)

*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (International Commission on English in the Liturgy, 1986) See chart on page 14.

*Welcome to Christ: A Lutheran Introduction to the Catechumenate* (Augsburg Fortress Press, 1997) See “Common Terms” pages 71-74 and chart on nest to last page.

*Welcoming New Christians: A Guide for the Christian Initiation of Adults* by Jane Hooper Peifer and John Stahl-Wert (Scottsdale, PA.: Mennonite Publishing House, 1995) See charts on pages 9 and 10.

*Go Make Disciples* (Augsburg Fortress, 2012) An ecumenical handbook.

\* Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults narrates the process without giving terminology for the stages. It does recognize the parallel nature of the process.

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