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# THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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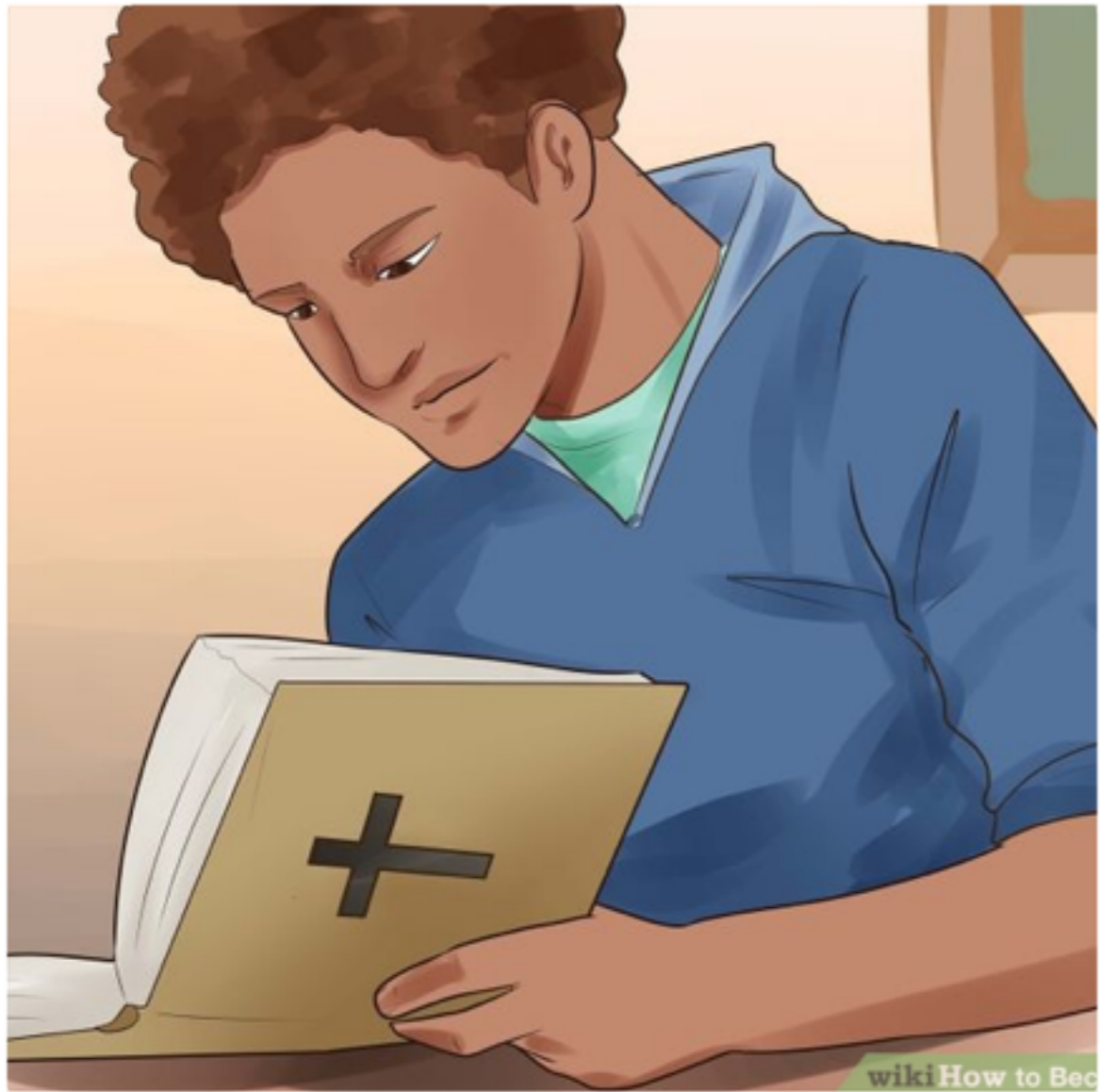
Conception Abbey: Language, Culture and Church for International Priests and Religious

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# GROUPS WE FIND IN THE US

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Catechumen

Uncatechized Catholic

Candidate baptized in another  
Church

Catechized

Uncatechized

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- Precatechumenate

- Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

- Catechumenate

- Election

- Purification and Enlightenment

- Initiation

- Mystagogy

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# TIMETABLES

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Catechumens normally participate in Rite of Election on or around the First Sunday of Lent and are baptized at the Easter Vigil

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# TIMETABLES

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Baptized, uncatechized Catholics receive confirmation at discretion of bishop

Baptized candidates of other Churches usually participate in the Call to Continuing Conversion at the Rite of Election and Reception at the Easter Vigil, but....

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# PARAGRAPH 75 - A VARIED APPROACH

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A suitable catechesis... planned to be gradual and complete in its coverage, accommodated to the liturgical year.

Familiarity with the Christian way of life

Suitable liturgical rites

Learn how to work actively with others to spread the Gospel

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# VALID BAPTISM

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Trinitarian formula [and meaning] - many

“Baptism” in names other than the biblical Trinity are not valid

Mormon baptisms are not valid

Nor baptism “in name of Jesus”

Some Pentecostal baptisms are Trinitarian

Conditional baptism to be celebrated privately

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# PARALLEL RITES

RITE OF WELCOMING

RITE OF SENDING

CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

PENITENTIAL RITE (SCRUTINY)

RECEPTION INTO THE FULL COMMUNION  
OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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# **BAPTISMAL SPONSORS**

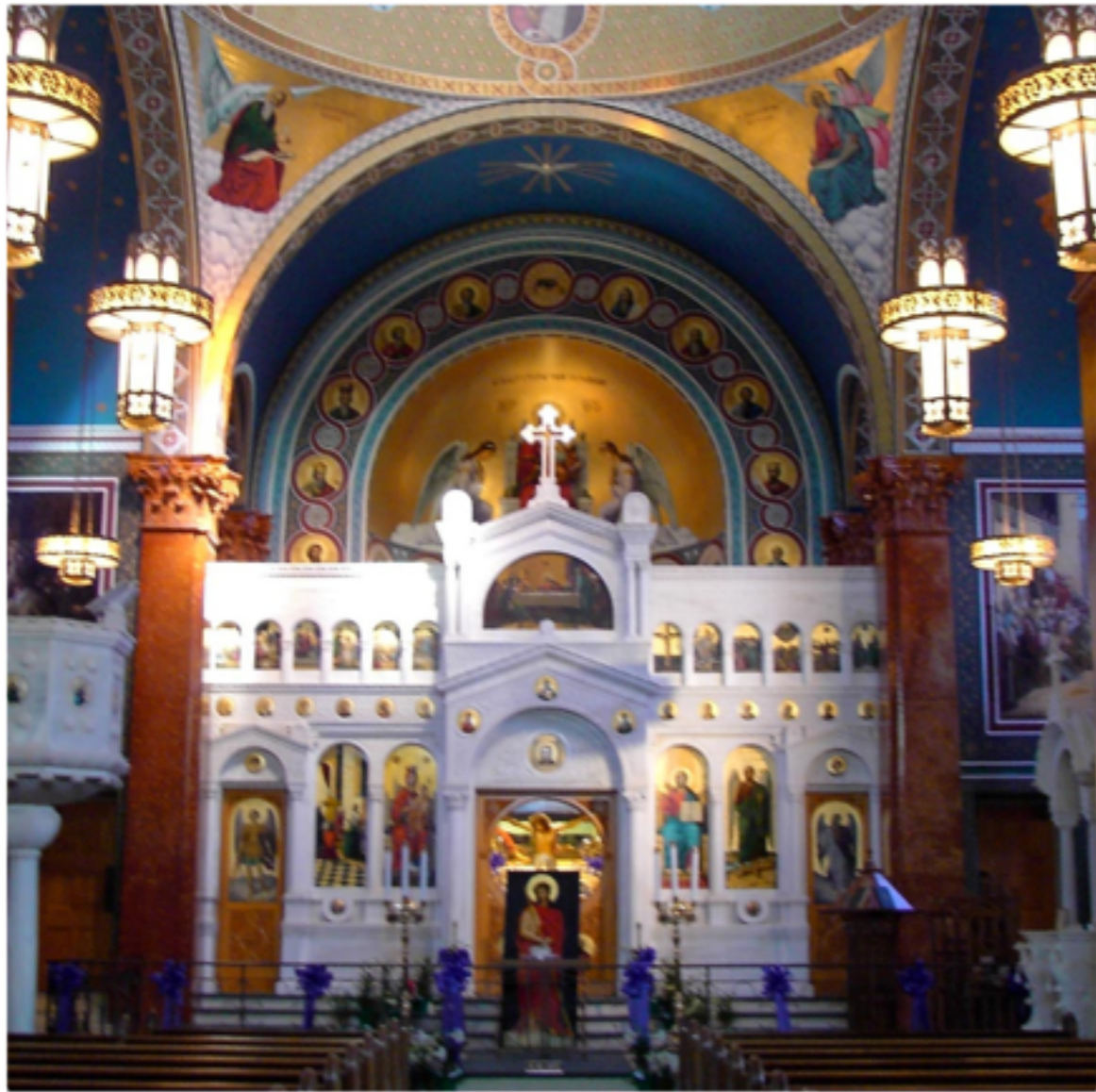
**Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:**

- 1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;**
- 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;**
- 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;**
- 4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;**
- 5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.**

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# RECEIVING FROM ORTHODOXY

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Normally the parallel Eastern Catholic rite performs this ritual

May be done by a Latin Rite Catholic minister, but it does not receive into the Latin Rite

Performed without ceremony

Reception to Latin Rite possible, complicated, not advised

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# CHILDREN

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## RCIA and RBC

“What is prescribed in the canons on the baptism of an adult is applicable to all who are no longer infants but have attained the use of reason.” CCL 852/1

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# ADULTS AND CHILDREN

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The priest confirms a person he baptizes “who is no longer an infant or one already baptized whom he admits into the full communion of the Catholic Church” CCL 883/2

“A presbyter who has this faculty must use it for those in whose favor the faculty was granted” CCL 885/2

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# RECEPTION OF CHILDREN

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If the child is below the age of reason, a juridic act replaces the liturgical rites, and confirmation and communion follow later

E.g., parents or guardians make a declaration in the presence of the pastor or his delegate, and reception is noted in parish register

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# BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

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## Code of Canon Law

854: Baptism is to be conferred either by immersion or by pouring; the prescripts of the conference of bishops are to be observed

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# CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 1239

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[Baptism] signifies and actually brings about death to sin and entry into the life of the Most Holy Trinity through configuration to the Paschal mystery of Christ. Baptism is performed in the most expressive way by triple immersion in the baptismal water. However, from ancient times it has also been able to be conferred by pouring the water three times over the candidate's head.

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# CHRISTIAN INITIATION: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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22:As the rite for baptizing, either immersion, which is more suitable as a symbol of participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, or pouring may lawfully be used



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# RCIA 213

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- in the celebration of baptism the washing with water should take on its full importance as the sign of that mystical sharing in Christ's death and resurrection through which those who believe in his name die to sin and rise to eternal life. Either immersion or the pouring of water should be chosen for the rite, whichever will serve in individual cases and in the various traditions and circumstances to ensure the clear understanding that this washing is not a mere purification rite but the sacrament of being joined to Christ.
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# NATIONAL STATUTES 17

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Baptism by immersion is the fuller and more expressive sign of the sacrament and, therefore, is preferred.

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# BUILT OF LIVING STONES

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*69/2: The font should be large enough to supply ample water for the baptism of both adults and infants. Since baptism in Catholic churches may take place by immersion in the water, or by infusion (pouring), fonts that permit all forms of baptismal practice are encouraged.*

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# REASONS

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Symbolism of death and rising

Ecumenism

History

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# ROMANS 6:3-4

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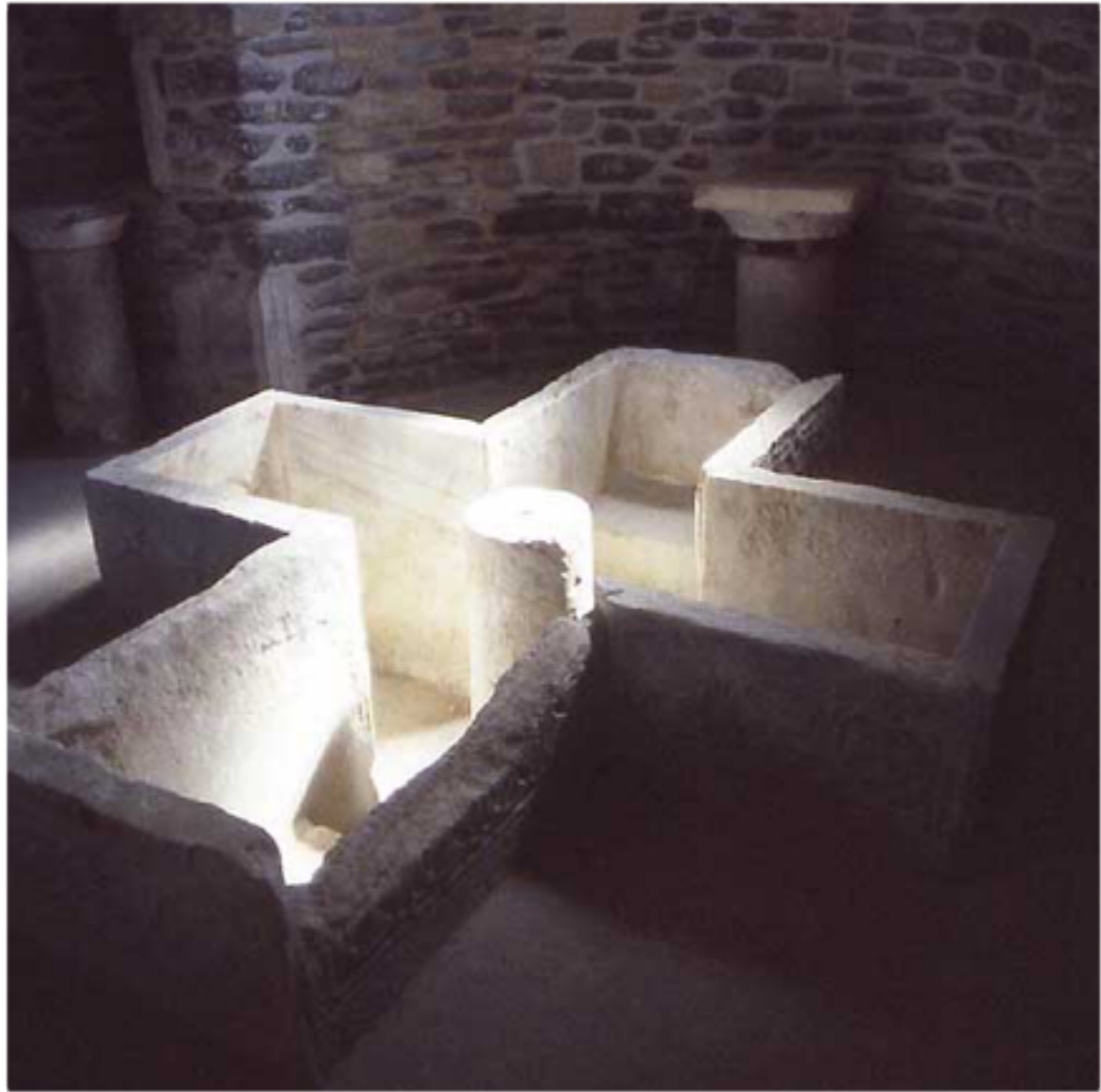
Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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# COLOSSIANS 3:2-12

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When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

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# I PETER 3:21

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And baptism, which [the saving of Noah] prefigured, now saves you —not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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# JOHN 3:5

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Jesus answered [Nicodemus],  
“Very truly, I tell you, no one can  
enter the kingdom of God without  
being born of water and Spirit.”

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# GALATIANS 3:27-28

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As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

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# BAPTISM

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Shallow pool

Kneeling and pouring / immersing

Deep pool

Standing and immersing

Drying out the minister and the neophytes

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