



## **Living Witnesses - The Adult Catechumenate**

### **A Time of Inquiry**

A time for searching for God who loved us first. A time to think about myself and my relationship to God: Who am I? How am I dealing with my fears and anxieties? How am I dealing with my brokenness? What is God saying to me? How am I going to respond? Am I truly ready to believe that I am forgiven? Do I fit in with this congregation? Do I belong? A time to realize that "the place God calls [me] to is the place where [my] deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." A very private time that takes time.

### **The Time of the Catechumenate**

A time to be welcomed in a public service. A time for learning to pray and to listen. A time to be with other people who pray. A time to reflect on the meaning of my life with other people who also seek. A time to reflect on where God is leading me.

### **The Time of Being a Candidate for Baptism**

A time to be with the congregation in its liturgy for my enrollment as a catechumen. A time for the congregation to get to know me and for me to come to know them. A time for me to learn to speak more freely to God and to listen more consciously to God. A time to share myself with my sponsor and to listen to each other - and perhaps to learn how friendship is a means of grace through which we together can enter more deeply into life with God. A time for the congregation to pray for me. And still more time to share my feelings, opinions, faith experiences, vulnerability, and other personal revelations. A time to commit myself to others in our common intent to be signs of the reign of God in the world.

### **The Time of Baptism**

A time to make the decision to be baptized - or perhaps a time to decide that I am not ready just yet. A time to realize that no matter what my decision that God only intends good.

### **A Time After Baptism**

A time to look at what gifts I have. A time to reflect on where and how I might better spend my time. A time that may take a long time.