

Sowing Seeds on Fertile Ground – Towards a Catechumenal Model of the Christian Initiation of Children in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pembroke

Description

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Abstract: Can moving toward a catechumenal model in the Christian initiation of children enable full, active and conscious participation of young families in the life and mission of the Church? This Doctor of Ministry thesis explores this question in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pembroke as it continues the transition from a school based preparation model towards the catechumenal model. This study is of consequence to the Diocese of Pembroke in examining the current situation of the initiation process for children in parishes and may be significant for other Roman Catholic dioceses that are or will be making the transition to an initiation process toward the catechumenal model. As a work in practical theology, this thesis is framed in a practice-theory-practice method. Historical and contemporary theological perspectives that relate to the initiation of children were examined. Phenomenological research was utilized to gather data collected from the interviews of participants involved in the initiation ministry from five parishes in the Diocese. Interview participants included children, parents, parish catechists and pastors/parish administrators.

The findings from the research were analyzed and interpreted in conversation with the current theological vision of the Church concerning the catechumenal model. This analysis was viewed through the lens of five foundational components of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: the RCIA as the model for all catechesis, the gradual nature of initiation, the significant role of the faith community in the process, liturgical catechesis and the integral roles of parents, parish catechists and mentors in the catechumenal process. From this analysis, recommendations for best practices were formulated. Conclusions drawn from this study affirm that adopting a catechumenal model of the sacramental initiation of children can help to enable full, active and conscious participation of young families in the life and mission of the Church and further indicate the possibility of families, catechists and parishes to experience transformation in faith. The research study suggests that if the process is based on the catechumenal model, then transformation of families, catechists and priests and active, full and conscious participation of young families in the life and mission of the Church are more likely to occur.

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considered extensions of violations of the Seventh Commandment. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." The Eighth Commandment condemns lying. Because God is regarded as the author of all truth, the Church believes that humans are obligated to honor the truth. It began when Roman artisans and traders arriving in Britain spread the story of Jesus along with stories of their Pagan deities. Christianity was just one cult amongst many, but unlike the cults of Rome, Christianity demanded exclusive allegiance from its followers. It was this intolerance of other gods, and its secrecy, which rattled the Roman authorities and led to repeated persecutions of Christians. Christians were forced to meet and worship in secret. But a single religion with a single God appealed to the Roman Emperor Constantine. This sowed the seeds of the parish system, still in existence today. It was the Norman Conquest that really cemented the power of the church in England. William the Conqueror implemented a colossal building project at both monastic and parish level. The Roman Catholic Church is an ancient religious institution boasting over a billion members worldwide. As such, it is the largest Christian ecclesiastical body in the world. Because of this alone, it is important to have an accurate understanding of the Roman Catholic Church's history and beliefs. Where did the Roman Catholic Church come from? Although we do not have records of the first Christian missionaries to Rome, it is obvious that a church existed there as the New Testament Scriptures were being written. St. Paul himself wrote an epistle to the church at Rome, and the Book of Acts records some of his dealings there. St. Clement of Rome (ca. Roman Catholicism, Christian church that has been the decisive spiritual force in the history of Western civilization. Along with Eastern Orthodoxy and Protestantism, it is one of the three major branches of Christianity. Learn about the history, doctrines, and influence of the Roman Catholic Church. Thus, all Roman Catholics are Christian, but not all Christians are Roman Catholic. Of the estimated 2.3 billion Christians in the world, about 1.3 billion of them are Roman Catholics. Broadly, Roman Catholicism differs from other Christian churches and denominations in its beliefs about the sacraments, the roles of the Bible and tradition, the importance of the Virgin Mary and the saints, and the papacy. Read more below: [Christianity: Contemporary Christianity](#).