Discernment Interview Prior to the Rite of Election or the Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion

Background:

The catechumens [and candidates] are questioned regarding their conversion of mind and morals, a sufficient knowledge of Christian doctrine, and their sense of faith and charity; deliberation is especially required regarding their suitability (OCIA 120).

Using the following questions as a guide for a conversation with the catechumen or candidate. Encourage him/her to share how God has worked in his or her life during the initiation process.

Participant Information

Name:

Classification: ☐ Catechumen ☐ Candidate

Essential Prayer Knowledge:

☐ Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

☐ Seven Sacraments, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, 10 Commandments

☐ Recite the Nicene Creed

Discernment Interview Questions:

1. Experience of the initiation process

What has been your experience during the initiation process?

What has affected you the most?

What have you enjoyed the most?

What has challenged you the most?

2. Personal transformation/ Relationships

How has your life changed in the time that you have been in the initiation process? What changes have occurred in your relationship with God or with your family or friends during this time?

3. Parish involvement

Tell me about some of the people or connections in the parish whom you have come to know or experiences in the parish you have had during the initiation process.

4. Prayer life

Tell me about your regular prayer practice

5. Relationship with Christ, The Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Saints.

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ? The Blessed Virgin Mary? The saints?

6. Knowledge of the Faith

Do you feel that you have a good grasp of the teachings of the Church?

Do you have questions about any of them?

What areas do you wish to learn more about?

7. Catholic identity and way of life

Do you understand what becoming a member of the Catholic Church entails?

8. Holiness and charity

How do you understand the call to holiness?

9. Desire for the sacraments

Do you desire the sacraments?

Specifically, the Eucharist?

10. Desire to proceed

Do you wish to be baptized/be received into full communion/complete the Sacraments of Initiation?

Are you prepared to take this next step in your initiation process?

Interviewer Evaluation:

☐ The Catechumen/Candidate has sufficient knowledge and has experienced conversion making him/her ready for initiation.

☐ The Catechumen/Candidate requires further formation.

Notes:

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