

# Ephpheta

*RCIA: Celebrating the Rites Right*



In January of this year, a group of RCIA coordinators/directors and catechists gathered at the diocesan pastoral center to discuss the state of RCIA in the Diocese of Salt Lake City. The evening was filled with bountiful discussions and insights. At the end of the evening, the group recommended that the Office of Liturgy organize a series of workshops to discuss each stage of the RCIA process with the goal of going deeper into the ritual texts, the rites, theology, and some history of the RCIA.

In order to facilitate this continuing formation for RCIA leaders, catechists, and other ministers, the Office of Liturgy invited the North American Forum on the Catechumenate to host a three day institute, which was designed to begin the diocesan efforts of training/formation for RCIA leaders, catechists, and other ministers. After a huge success with the North American Forum, time has come to commence the next stage of this formation.

Acknowledging the intimate link between liturgy and catechesis, the Office of Liturgy invited the Office of Religious Education and the Office of Hispanic Ministry to join this venture of study and prayer.



As part of this ongoing formation, the Office of Liturgy, the Office of Religious Education, and the Office of Hispanic Ministry are delighted to announce the *Ephpheta* series.



The *Ephpheta* series is designed to explore each period of the RCIA process through lecture, group discussion, and practical tips for celebrating the rites.



The *Ephpheta* series is designed for RCIA Team members, pastors, deacons, parish coordinators, liturgists, musicians, liturgy committees, lay ecclesial ministers, other catechists and interested adults.

## Ephpheta Workshops

♦ **Saturday, October 10, 2009 ~ Time TBA**

*RCIA: We Have Set Our Hope on the Living God*

Skaggs Catholic Center ~ registration is part of the Diocesan Pastoral Congress

*This workshop will provide an introduction to the entire **Ephpheta** series. This gathering will also include a breakout session for deaneries to meet and discuss issues in their region, share ideas and resources, and hopefully build a relationship of support and prayer.*

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♦ **Saturday, October 24, 2009 ~ 8:00 AM—12:30 PM**

*RCIA: Introduction to History and Process*

Diocesan Pastoral Center

*This session is designed to give a brief history of the RCIA and provide a framework on how the process progresses in a parish and enriches the life of the parish.*

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♦ **Saturday, November 21, 2009 ~ 8:00 AM—12:30 PM**

*RCIA: The Precatechumenate and Introduction to the Catechumenate*

Diocesan Pastoral Center

*The Christian life is one of conversion. In this period inquirers ask the parish to walk with them as they discern the presence of God in their lives. This is the time to evangelize and share stories. This session will look at the purpose and process of the precatechumenate, as well as, the “content” that is shared. This session will conclude with a look at the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens.*



◆ **Sunday, January 10, 2010 ~ 8:00 AM—12:30 PM**

*RCIA: The Catechumenate*

Diocesan Pastoral Center



*Rooted in the word, liturgy, service, and community, the Catechumenate is a time to proclaim and echo the life of the Risen Lord. During this period the catechist has a responsibility to teach the faith and form the catechumens in the faith through reflection, discussion, and prayer. We will ask the questions: What is the catechumenate? How does the parish celebrate dismissals? Who should be in the catechumenate?*

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◆ **Saturday, February 13, 2010 ~ 8:00 AM—12:30 PM**

*RCIA: Purification and Enlightenment*

Diocesan Pastoral Center



*After a full year in the Catechumenate, the catechumens are elected by the Bishop to receive the Easter Sacraments and enter into the third stage of the RCIA process. This session will briefly study the rite of election and call to continuing conversion and move into an exploration of the period of purification and enlightenment. The workshop will conclude by considering the three scrutinies.*

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◆ **Saturday, March 6, 2010 ~ 8:00 AM—12:30 PM**

*RCIA: Mystagogy and Marriage Issues Concerning Catechumens and Candidates*

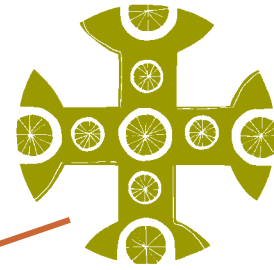
Diocesan Pastoral Center



*The fourth period in the RCIA is the most forgotten. Do you have questions on how to “do” mystagogy? This gathering will demonstrate mystagogical reflection and discuss its history and importance as a way to ignite lifelong conversion. Lastly, issues concerning marriage, divorce, annulments, etc. will be addressed.*

### What to Bring

- A copy of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*
- A copy of *Year-Round Catechumenate*
- Pen and paper
- Water bottle



### Required Texts for the Course

1. *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, study edition (Liturgy Training Publications)
2. *Year-Round Catechumenate* by Mary Birmingham (Liturgy Training Publications)

### Suggested texts for further study

1. *Saying Amen: A Mystagogy of Sacrament* by Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ (Liturgy Training Publications)
2. *When Other Christians Become Catholic* by Fr. Paul Turner (Liturgical Press)
3. *The Hallelujah Highway: A History of the Catechumenate* by Fr. Paul Turner (Liturgy Training Publications)



*After that, as night approaches, [the priest] removes all your clothing, and as though meaning to introduce you to heaven itself through the things that are done, he prepares your whole body with an unction of the spiritual oil, so that all your members may be fortified by the unction and defend against the darts of the enemy. After the unction he takes you down into the sacred waters.*

*John Chrysostom, Fifth Century*