

C. CHILDREN BAPTIZED CATHOLIC AND NOT CATECHIZED

Preparation of children of catechetical age who were baptized as infants in the Roman Catholic Church but not catechized might follow Chapters 1 and 4 of Part II of the *Rite of Christian Initiation*. Even though they were baptized in the Catholic Church they need to journey toward conversion and full sacramental initiation. Often this can best be done in the company of other children and families in similar circumstances. The child might benefit from preparation with child catechumens. See *RCIA* Part II, Chapter 1 and #477 - 478. Such children would celebrate the rites for the baptized. A thorough interview will help decide whether the catechumenal process is right for the child and family. Some additional attention may also be given to the family if they are returning to the Church.

For the Catholic child who has been baptized, but not catechized, the celebration of Confirmation needs special attention. If the child has journeyed with other children who will be fully initiated, it would be desirable for the child to be confirmed by the parish priest to maintain the interrelationship and sequence of Confirmation and Eucharist. However, the parish priest does not have the faculty to confirm baptized Catholics (*RCIA* National Statute #28c) and must seek permission to confirm from the bishop in accord with Canon 884§1 (National Statute #29).

An older child who has remained active in the Church but missed Confirmation does not need a full initiation process. If an interview shows that the child has been formed in faith and participates in the life of the Church, sacramental catechesis may be the only formation necessary.