



DIOCESE OF COVINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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DECREE OF PROMULGATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

“Through the sacraments of Christian initiation men and women are freed from the power of darkness. With Christ they die, are buried and rise again. They receive the Spirit of adoption which makes them God’s sons and daughters and, with the entire people of God, they celebrate the memorial of the Lord’s death and resurrection.” (Cf. Vatican Council II, Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity, *Ad Gentes*, no. 14)

The expanding numbers of men and women who participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults are the fruits of our evangelization efforts. They provide a dynamic source of vitality to our parish communities. The pastors and parish directors of the RCIA are to be commended for their dedication and commitment toward these ends. I am grateful for their partnership and collaboration, a sign of sound leadership. Indeed, the entire parish becomes involved in welcoming new Christians expressing our solidarity and unity in Christ.

Each year, as I stand before the Catechumens and Candidates at the Rite of Election, I feel their deep longing and hunger as they search for the truth to set them free (John 8:32); for the Word of God to encourage them; for the Bread of Life (John 6:35) to nourish and sustain them. Their ardent longings have brought them to a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ – Lord and Savior! Through Christian initiation, they are incorporated into the Body of Christ (1Cor. 12:27), the Church. It is through Christ, the one mediator, that the Church was established and is sustained as a communion of faith, hope and charity – a visible community through which truth and grace are transmitted to all its faithful. (Cf. Vatican Council II, *Lumen Gentium*, no. 8)

Our untiring efforts fulfill the challenge of the “New Evangelization” hoped for by our late Holy Father, Pope Saint John Paul II, as we hasten toward the celebration of a new springtime of Christianity.

This manual provides useful and valuable assistance for parish leadership and RCIA teams. Utilizing the personnel and resources of our Diocese of Covington RCIA Advisory Committee will ensure the vibrant unity of the RCIA journey in every sector of the diocese. In this holy Year of Mercy, on this day, Tuesday, December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, I promulgate the norms and policies of this manual and urge pastors and RCIA teams to implement and utilize them in the most appropriate manner in each parish and institution.

Devotedly Yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D.