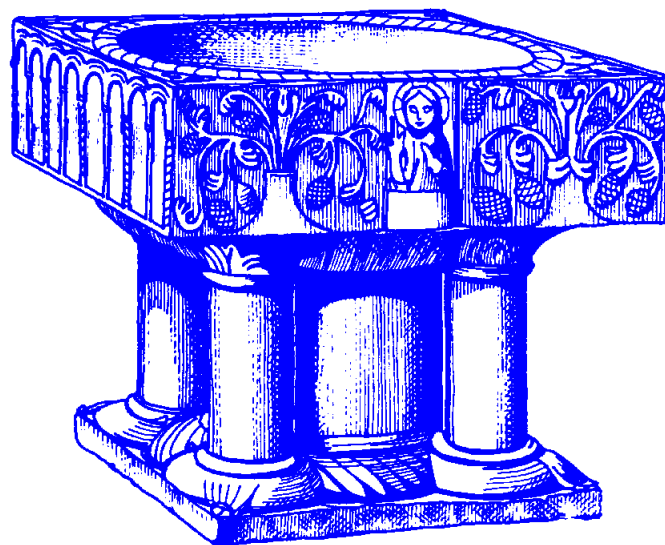


**RECORDING
THE
SACRAMENTS
OF
INITIATION**



Why should we keep sacramental records?

Canon 535 requires pastors to maintain records of anything that could affect the status of their parishioners. Baptism and confirmation, marriage, ordination and religious profession are all noted in the baptismal register so that a person's status would be clear and accessible.

Where should one record the sacraments of initiation?

- **RITE OF ACCEPTANCE OF CATECHUMENS**

From the time of the rite of acceptance catechumens are joined to the Church and are part of the household of Christ. Their names are inscribed in the *Register of Catechumens* (RCIA no. 46 - 47).

- **FULL INITIATION OF CATECHUMENS AT THE EASTER VIGIL**

Catechumens who have been called to election are fully initiated (baptism, confirmation, eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. Full initiation is recorded in the *Baptism Register*. For purposes of cross-referencing the information is entered into the *Confirmation Register* and the *First Communion Register*.

- **RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The record of people who are received into full communion in the Catholic Church after being baptized in another church or ecclesial community record should be kept in a *Full Communion Register*. For purposes of cross-referencing the information is also entered into the *Confirmation Register* and the *First Communion Register*. Either a marginal notation or notation under the baptismal date should be recorded giving the date of reception into the Catholic Church. Most Protestant churches maintain baptismal records and marriage records. Notification of reception into the Catholic Church should be sent to the place of baptism.

- **BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS SEEKING TO COMPLETE CHRISTIAN INITIATION
Rite of Confirmation (with First Communion)**

The confirmation of adult Catholics baptized as infants in the Roman Catholic Church is recorded in the *Confirmation Register*. Notification of the completion of Christian initiation should be sent to the church of baptism.

It may be the case that an adult Catholic, baptized as an infant, needs both confirmation and eucharist to complete Christian initiation. The record of people, who receive the sacraments of confirmation and first communion, are entered into the *Confirmation Register* and the *First Communion Register*. Notification of completion of Christian initiation should be sent to the church of baptism.

- **CHRISTIANS BAPTIZED IN AN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH ENTERING INTO THE FULLNESS OF CATHOLIC COMMUNION**

If a person from the Orthodox Church is entering into the fullness of Catholic communion, their baptism, confirmation and eucharist are valid. After a period of appropriate pastoral formation, members of these Churches simply make a Profession of Faith through which they are incorporated into the corresponding Catholic Rite (e.g. Greek Orthodox become Greek Catholic) unless permission to transfer to the Latin Rite has been procured from the Vatican prior to their making a Profession of Faith. Although this is different than reception into full communion notification of those entering the Catholic Church from the Orthodox Church as well as those entering the Roman Catholic Church from a *sui iuris* Catholic Church should be kept in the *Full Communion Register*. (**N.B.** A person coming into the Catholic Church from an Orthodox Church does not automatically transfer to the Latin Rite.)