

Spades — OCIA

Challenge:

How do we move someone from **“learning Catholicism”** to **“falling in love with Christ and discovering a Catholic way of life?”**

Concrete strategies:

- Begin sessions with catechumens/candidates' lived experience.
- Use testimony and storytelling.
- Ask open-ended questions before giving explanations.
- Incorporate Scripture into every gathering.
- Use parish life as the curriculum.
- Connect doctrine to prayer and discipleship.
- Provide opportunities for service.
- Introduce catechumens/candidates to parishioners at events like the fair.
- Use sponsors as companions/mentors and involved with discernment.
- Regularly ask: **“Where do you see God working in your life?”**
- End sessions with a concrete invitation to practice something during the week.

A useful OCIA pattern:

Welcome → Story → Scripture → Catholic Tradition → Reflection → Prayer → Mission

Diamonds — Family Catechesis

Challenge:

How do we stop making parents the people who simply bring their children to religious education/confirmation Preparation?

Instead:

The family becomes the place where faith is lived.

Strategies:

- Send home questions rather than worksheets.
- Give parents simple faith practices.
- Pray together.
- Encourage sharing family faith stories.
- Connect Sunday Scripture with family life ie. Reflection Question of the week
- Invite grandparents/godparents into the process.
- Give families something to **do together**, not simply something to complete.
- Ask children to interview parents about their faith.
- Invite parents to share their own questions and doubts.

Example:

Instead of:

“Memorize the Corporal Works of Mercy.”

Try:

“Choose one person your family can help this week. Next week, tell the story.”

Clubs — Youth Ministry

Challenge:

How do we move from programming teenagers to accompanying them as disciples?

Strategies:

- Begin with their questions.
- Let them tell their stories.
- Take their doubts seriously.
- Use Scripture as conversation rather than merely content.
- Create opportunities for service.
- Provide mentors.
- Train and let young people lead.
- Connect faith with real issues they face.
- Create experiences of prayer and silence.
- Ask not only **“What do you believe?”** but **“How is Jesus calling you to live?”**

- **Hearts — Adult Faith Formation**

Challenge:

Adults bring decades of experience into the room. How do we honor that experience?

Strategies:

- Begin with experience.
- Ask good questions.
- Use small-group conversation.
- Connect Scripture with lived experience.
- Allow room for disagreement and honest questions.
- Use testimony.
- Integrate prayer.
- End with a concrete practice.
- Invite participants to become witnesses and teachers themselves.