

Reflection

Feast of Christ the King

*O*n the final Sunday of the Liturgical each year we celebrate the feast day of Christ the King, and then the following week we move into the first Sunday of the season of Advent.

It is timely to reflect on what this great feast means for Christians as we prepare ourselves to enter into a time of hope and anticipation during Advent, where we consider and reflect more deeply upon the mysteries of the Reign of God, and so prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas.

At the end of Jesus' ministry, Pilate was challenged by the authority of Jesus and indeed challenged Jesus to deny his kingship. Jesus did not deny this statement; instead, he accepted the title and linked the title with his reason for coming into this world, namely, to inaugurate the Reign of God and to do things differently.

At the same time, Jesus baffled Pilate, because Pilate's limited understanding of kingship was closely connected to power over people, domination and force. The Kingdom Jesus came to inaugurate was a kingship where the values of the kingdom stood in stark contrast. Jesus bore witness to a new way of being in the world that reflected God's love and presence in the world. The Kingdom of God ushered in God's dream for a world of peace and fellowship, of justice and mercy, based on mutual respect for the rights of each person, and of God's faithful and everlasting love for all people.

This is the truth to which Jesus bore witness in the way he lived his life and ministered to all people. Jesus showed that service was the way of the Kingdom, not domination. Compassion and mercy were the hallmarks of his dealings with all people. Presence and attentiveness to the needs of people often shocked those who thought Jesus lacked judgement and a sense of what was appropriate. Perhaps more shockingly, Jesus proclaimed openly and often that it is to the so-called 'little ones,' those of no consequence and status in the community that he had come. He proclaimed the love of a God who desired to be close to and ever-present to the people who put their faith in God. It is appropriate that during the

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time of Advent, we give consideration and mindfulness to those in our society who need it most.

The season of Advent is a quietly joyful season of preparation to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world. The Scriptures lead us richly in this time of reflection with messages of hope for a better world, with a deep sense of how God wishes to be with us and to engage us in the coming of the Reign of God. We are people of the Kingdom of God, and as we move closer to Christmas, the invitation is to share our faith in this Lord of history. Our lives bear witness to the presence of God's Reign when we are of service to one another; when we are mindful of the plight of the poor in our midst; when we reconcile with one another, when we act with kindness and generosity, where we share the joy of life with others and when we show compassion. Whenever we see these values in action, we see evidence of the Reign of God in our midst.

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coordinator

What's in this newsletter??

In this newsletter you will find some information about the first step in the RCIA process: Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, and an outline of the actual Rite. This may be downloaded for when you acknowledge the Rite of Acceptance in your parish.

Many parishes do this at the beginning of Advent; some choose to do it around the time of the feast of the Baptism of Jesus.

There is also some information in the CIAN Newsletter which may be of use to you. The link to this publication is included with this newsletter. Of note, the CIAN Newsletter features a write-up of the Adelaide RCIA Conference held in October.



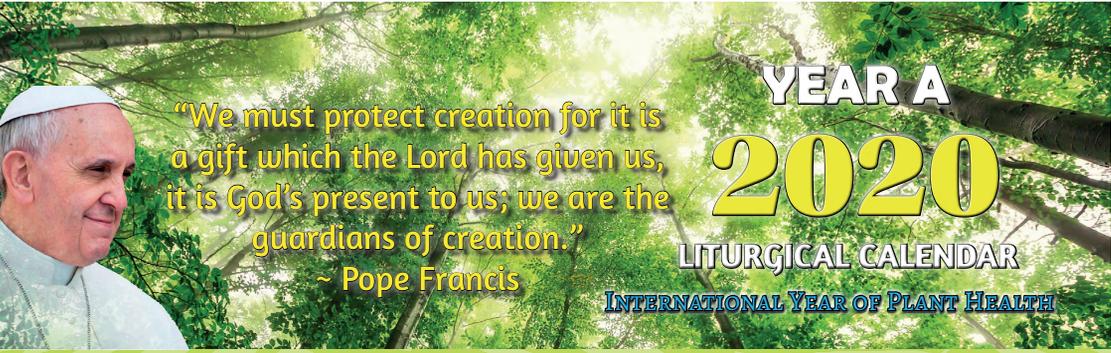
CIAN NETWORK NEWS

NETWORK NEWS
April 2013

Words from the Chair

The Power of the Story

To view the latest and past issues of the CIAN Network News go to www.cianetwork.net/network-news



YEAR A 2020
LITURGICAL CALENDAR
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH

*"We must protect creation for it is a gift which the Lord has given us, it is God's present to us; we are the guardians of creation."
~ Pope Francis*

Celebrating the International Year of Plant Health, the theme of the 2020 calendar features plants from the bible, and embraces Pope Francis' second encyclical 'Laudata Si'

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Rite of Acceptance

Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

This first formal step into the RCIA process is about public acknowledgement for the first time of candidates who have completed the period of pre-catechumenate and who declare their intention to the Church; the Church accepts them as persons who intend to become its members.

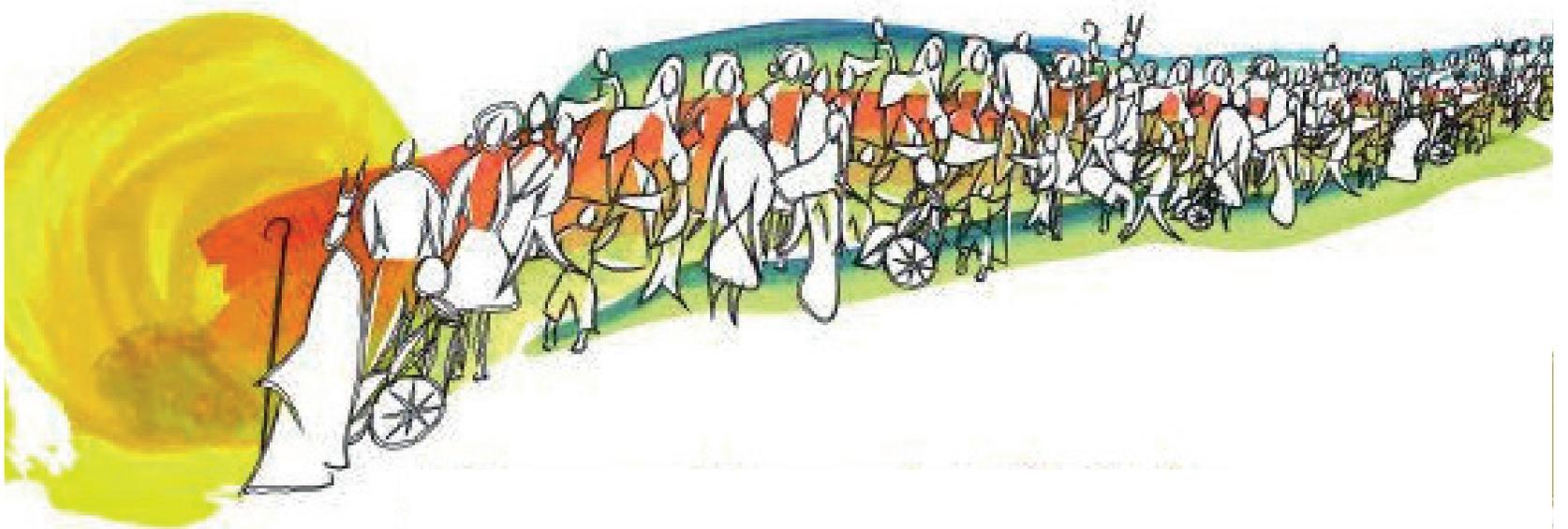
For catechumens, taking this step acknowledges the beginnings of the spiritual life and evidence of the first stirrings of repentance. It is expected that those seeking to become catechumens will begin the practice of regular prayer, develop a sense of Church, and experience something of the spirit of Christians through contact with a priest or with members of the community. Candidates should also be instructed about the celebration of the liturgical rite of acceptance.

The **Rite of Acceptance** consists of the reception of candidates, celebration of the Word of God, and dismissal of the candidates.

It is desirable that the entire Christian community or some part of it take an active part in the celebration.

After the celebration, the names of catechumens are written in the register of catechumens, along with the names of the sponsors and minister, date and place of the celebration.

From this point on, the Church will nourish these catechumens with the word of God and sustain them by means of liturgical celebrations.



Rite of Acceptance

Outline of the Rite

RECEIVING THE CANDIDATES:

- Greeting
- Opening Dialogue
- Candidates' first acceptance of the gospel
- Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly
- Signing of the Candidates with the Cross
- Signing of the forehead
- Signing of the other senses
- Concluding Prayer
- Invitation to the Celebration of the Word of God

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Instruction
- Readings
- Homily
- Presentation of a Bible
- Intercessions for the Catechumens
- Prayer over the Catechumens
- Dismissal of the Catechumens

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

RECEIVING THE CANDIDATES:

The candidates, their sponsors, and a group of the assembled community gather outside the Church, or in the entrance foyer. The priest or deacon goes out to meet them and they process into the Church.

GREETING:

The Celebrant greets the candidates and acknowledges their sponsors, and the community gathered together. He then invites candidates to come forward with their sponsors.

Rite of Acceptance

OPENING DIALOGUE:

The Celebrant calls the name of each candidate, and candidate acknowledge their presence by stating: 'Present'

The Celebrant then asks the Candidates:

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church?

Candidates respond: Faith

Celebrant: What does faith offer you?

Candidates: Eternal life

CANDIDATES' FIRST ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOSPEL:

Celebrant:

God gives light to everyone who comes into this world; though unseen, he reveals himself through the works of his hand, so that all people may learn to give thanks to their Creator.

You have followed God's light and the way of the Gospel now lies open before you. Set your feet firmly on that path and acknowledge the living God, who truly speaks to everyone. Walk in the light of Christ and learn to trust in his wisdom. Commit your lives daily to his care, so that you may come to believe in him with all your heart.

This is the way of faith along which Christ will lead you in love toward eternal life. Are you prepared to begin this journey today under the guidance of Christ?

Candidates: I am.

Celebrant:

Sponsors, you now present these candidates to us; are you, and all who are gathered here with us, ready to help these candidates find and follow Christ?

All: We are.

Celebrant:

*God of mercy, we thank you for these your servants.
You have sought and summoned them in many ways
And they have turned to seek you.
You have called them today
And they have answered in our presence:
We praise you, Lord, and we bless you.*

Rite of Acceptance

SIGNING OF THE CANDIDATES WITH THE CROSS:

SIGNING OF THE FOREHEAD

The Celebrant invites candidates and their sponsors to come forward, using words similar to the following: The Celebrant says:

Come forward now with your sponsors to receive the sign of your new way of life as catechumens.

The cross is traced on the forehead of each candidate and the Celebrant says:

N. receive the cross on your forehead.

It is Christ himself who now strengthens you

With this sign of his love.

Learn to know him and follow him.

All of the Assembly sings or says the following acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SIGNING OF THE OTHER SENSES:

Note:

At the discretion of the celebrant the signing of one, several, or all of the senses may follow. The celebrant alone says the words accompanying each signing.

The signing is carried out by catechists or sponsors; the signing of each sense may be followed by an acclamation in praise of Jesus Christ, e.g. "Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

While the ears are being signed, the Celebrant says:

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears,

That you may hear the voice of the Lord.

While the eyes are being signed: