

Evening Training of Sponsors in Preparation for a Weekend Event

LEGEND:

Italic type denotes elements of the real-life process.

Underlined type denotes elements of the role-played process.

Bold type denotes real-life liturgical celebrations; bold type underlined denotes role-played liturgical celebrations.

UPPER-CASE DENOTES A PRESENTATION ON THE NATURE OF CATECHUMENAL PROCESS (USUALLY RETROSPECTIVE AT THE END OF A 'PERIOD').

Sponsor Training is separate from the Training Event itself. Sponsor Training in this model is really a matter of recruiting half the participants for the Training Event (the eager half), and persuading them to recruit the other half from among their acquaintances or fellow parishioners; then, in the Training Event itself, the first group are the 'sponsors' and the second group the 'candidates' — except that they are candidates not for baptism (or pseudo re-initiation, as in many training designs) but candidates for conversion to a catechumenal ministry.

For this reason, although the 'mock' rites celebrated with the actors are the rites of the catechuminate, the genuine rites celebrated with the candidates and sponsors are rites of the already baptized — and these are adapted to celebrate stages of growing commitment to catechumenal ministry. And 'candidates' are invited to move into this commitment, but urged to go only as far as their convictions will take them.

John Hill

Training Sponsors

Period 1: Connecting <i>(Evangelization)</i>	Welcome, personal introductions; coffee	7:30	Host	'Sponsors' will acquire sufficient clarity about the process and goals to become motivated, and enough confidence to invite others as 'candidates.'
	Sketch of 'catechumenal process'	7:50	Catechist 1	
	Concept and aims of the training process	8:10	Catechist 2	
	The role of 'sponsors,' inside and outside of sessions	8:30	Catechist 1	
	Learning strategy: experience, then reflection	8:45	Catechist 2	
	How to recruit 'candidates'	9:00	Host	
	Discussion	9:15	Host	

The Catechumenate Training Process: Weekend Event

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TRAINING SPONSORS

<i>PERIOD 1: Connecting (Evangelization)</i>	Welcome, personal introductions; coffee	7:30	Host	'Sponsors' will acquire sufficient clarity about the process and goals to become motivated, and enough confidence to invite others as 'candidates'.
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WEEKEND PROCESS

Thursday Evening

<i>PERIOD 1: (continued)</i>	Welcome; personal introductions	7:30	Host	The concept of the event will be made clear; participants will become conversant with the theory of catechumenal process and will identify their own starting point for participating in the event.
	Icebreaker Game	7:45	Host	
	PRESENTATION ON THE MEANING OF 'CATECHUMENAL PROCESS'	8:30	Catechist 1	
	Introduction to the nature of the weekend	9:00	Host	
	<u>Role Play</u>	9:10	Actors	
	Reaction to role play	9:20	Role Play Dir.	
	Party	9:30		

Friday

PERIOD 1: (continued)	<i>Candidate-Sponsor meetings: "How did you get to this place in your life?"</i> <u>Welcoming a Catechumen</u> (Actors) Reflections on the rite <i>Candidate-Sponsor task assignment: "What do you seek?"</i> Break <i>Welcoming Hearers</i> (Candidates & Sponsors) Reflections on the rite, and on the Candidate-Sponsor work PRESENTATION ON THE MINISTRY OF CONNECTING AND WELCOMING ('EVANGELIZATION')	9:00 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:20 10:35 10:50 11:10	(Catechist 2) Liturgist Catechist 2 (Catechist 2) Host Liturgist Catechist 2 Catechist 1	
PERIOD 2: Hearing (Catechumenate)	<u>Role Play</u> Reaction to role play Lunch <i>Small Groups: reflecting on the Sunday readings</i> <u>Calling a Candidate to Baptism</u> (Actors) Reflections on the rite <i>Candidate-Sponsor task assignment: "Is this the covenant you believe you are called to live by?"</i> Break <i>Calling Candidates to Reaffirm their Baptism</i> (Candidates & Sponsors) Reflections on the rite, and on the Small Group and the Candidate-Sponsor work PRESENTATION ON THE MINISTRY OF HEARING AND CALLING ('CATECHUMENATE')	11:30 11:45 12:30 2:00 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:35 3:50 4:10 4:30	Actors Role Play Dir. (Catechist 2) Liturgist Catechist 2 (Catechist 2) Liturgist Catechist 2 Catechist 1	Participants will experience formation through 'hearing' and empowerment through ritual.
PERIOD 3: Forming (Candidacy)	<u>Role Play</u> Reactions to the role play Happy Hour Dinner	4:50 5:00 5:30 6:00	Actors Host Role Play Dir.	Participants will experience transformation and freedom as the gospel reaches into the dark places of their lives, and addresses their fears and conflicts.

Saturday

PERIOD 3: (continued)	<i>Small Groups: reflecting on a Lenten Gospel</i> <u>Holy Baptism (Actors)</u> Reaction to the rite <i>Candidate-Sponsor task assignment: "What must I renounce to follow Christ?"</i> Break <i>Abbreviated Vigil, with Reaffirmation of Baptism</i> <i>(Candidates & Sponsors)</i> Reflections on the rite, and on the Small Group and the Candidate-Sponsor work PRESENTATION ON THE MINISTRY OF FORMATION AND BAPTISM (CANDIDACY) Lunch	9:00 9:45 10:05 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:45 12:00 12:30	(Catechist 2) Liturgist Catechist 2 (Catechist 2) Liturgist Catechist 2 Catechist 1	
PERIOD 4: Integrating (Mystagogy)	<u>Role Play</u> Reactions to the role play <i>Small Groups: reflecting on the experience of sacraments</i> <i>Candidate-Sponsor task assignment: "How can we work together to help form a sacramental people?"</i> PRESENTATION ON THE MINISTRY OF INTEGRATION ('MYSTAGOGY') Reflections on the entire process: where do we go from here?	2:00 2:10 2:20 3:00 3:15 4:00	Actors Role Play Dir. Catechist 2 (Catechist 2) Catechist 1 Host	Participants will integrate a new sense of self and of church, and find greater confidence in our ministry of making disciples.