

Youth Evangelisation

Chris Ryan MGL

Youth Evangelisation

Part I: An impossibly brief history of youth ministry in Australia

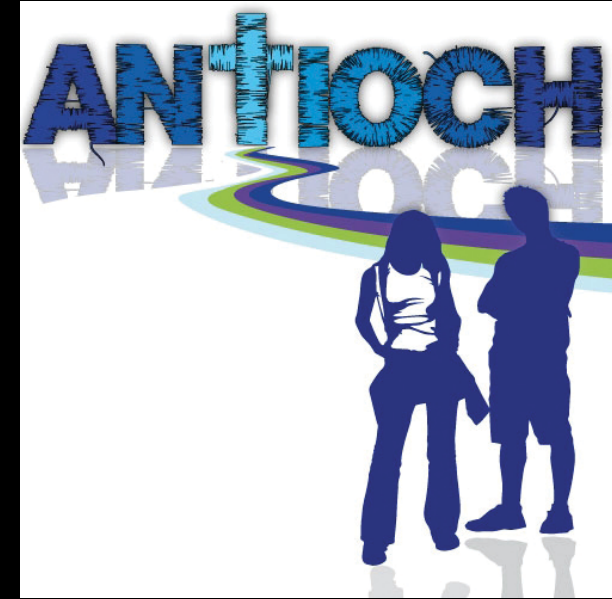
Part II: The RCIA as an evangelising resource for youth ministry

Part III: What does youth ministry look like if we take the RCIA as a model?

Youth ministry has always been
a response to the decline of
belief and practice among
young people

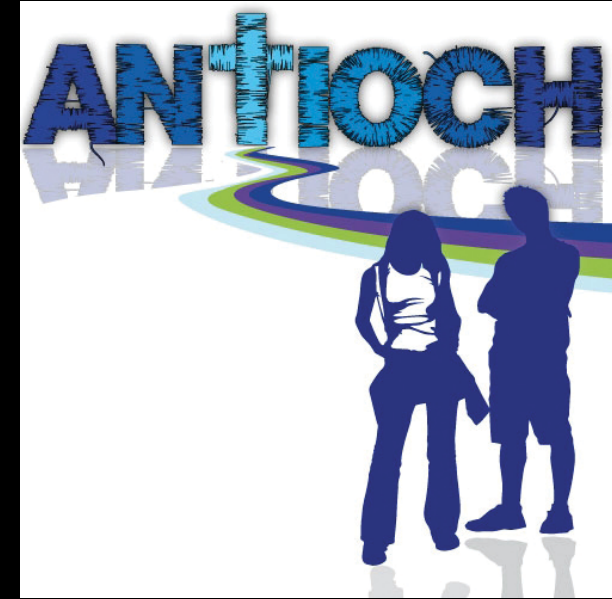


Sydney
Catholic
Schools





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IGNITE
YOUTH





Australia's Primary Strategy for the Faith Formation of Children and Youth: the Catholic School

The Arrival of Bishop Vaughan (1873)



“the education of the rising generation would be protected from the blighting influence of anti-Catholic secularism”.

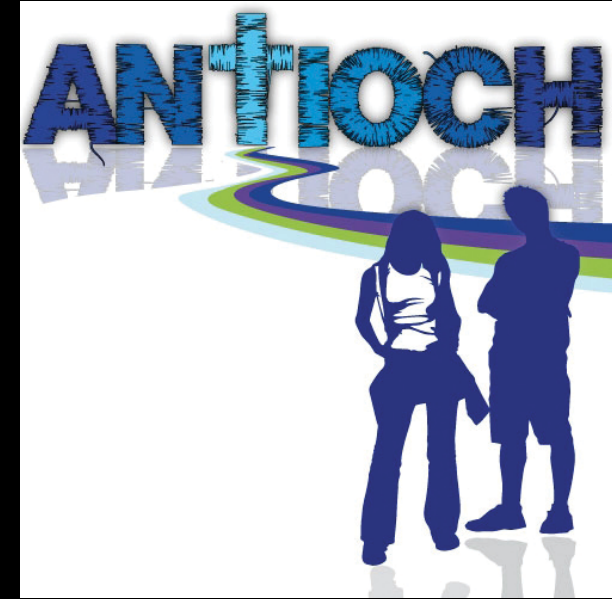
“The Church in Australia possesses two instruments to attack what I call earth worship, namely, the building of St Mary’s Cathedral and Christian education.”

The Construction of Adolescence





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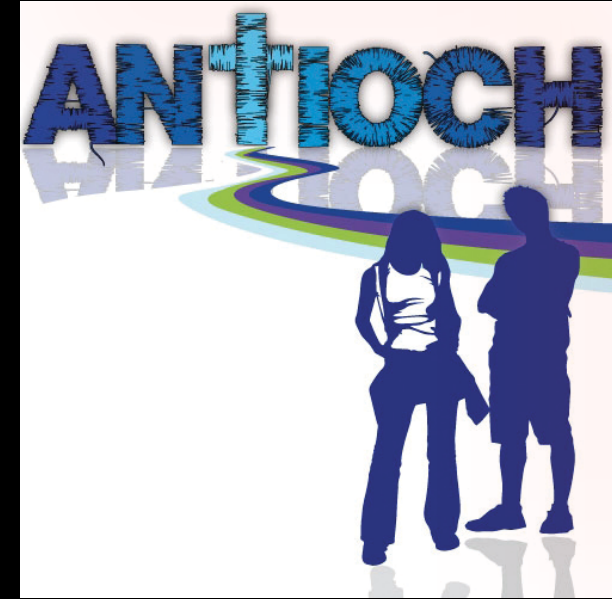
The YCW: A Response to the Industrial Revolution...

to the phenomenon of adolescence...

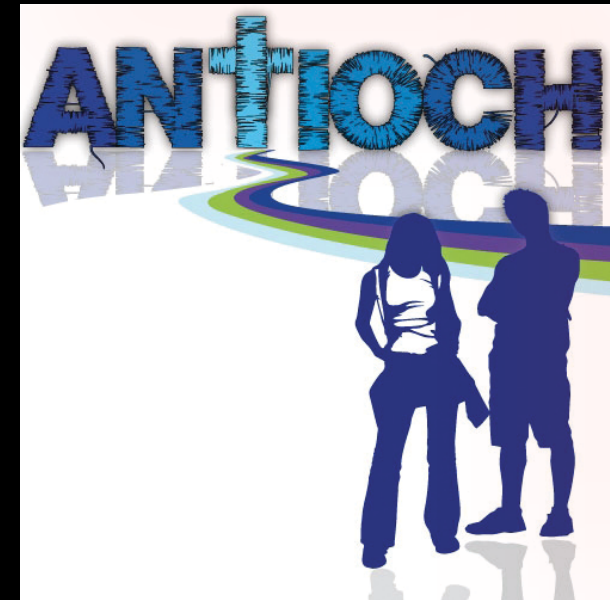
And to the decline of belief and practice among the young



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Making the Evangelical Turn: From Antioch to *Anointed and Sent*



Secularity

Evangelisation



Evangelisation

The RCIA

A theological resource for informing
youth ministry

What is the RCIA?

The process of conversion through witness,
proclamation, ritual, catechesis and community
leading to adult sacramental initiation

The RCIA

1 Evangelization
(pre-catechumenate)

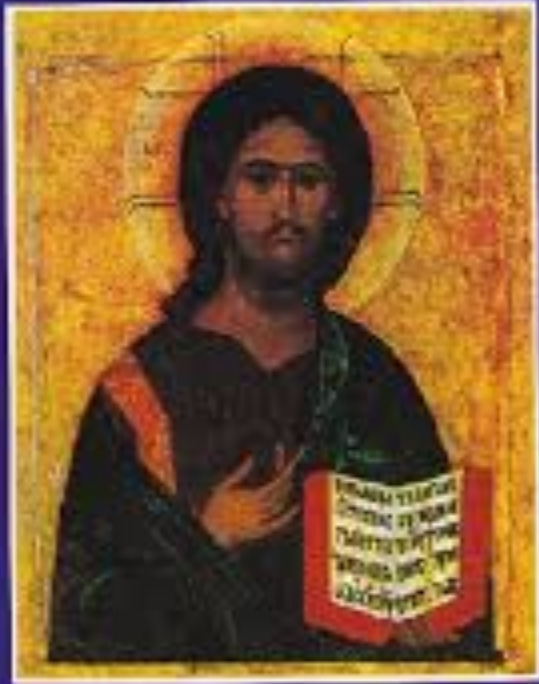
2 Catechumenate

3 Purification and
Enlightenment
(Lent)

4 Mystagogy

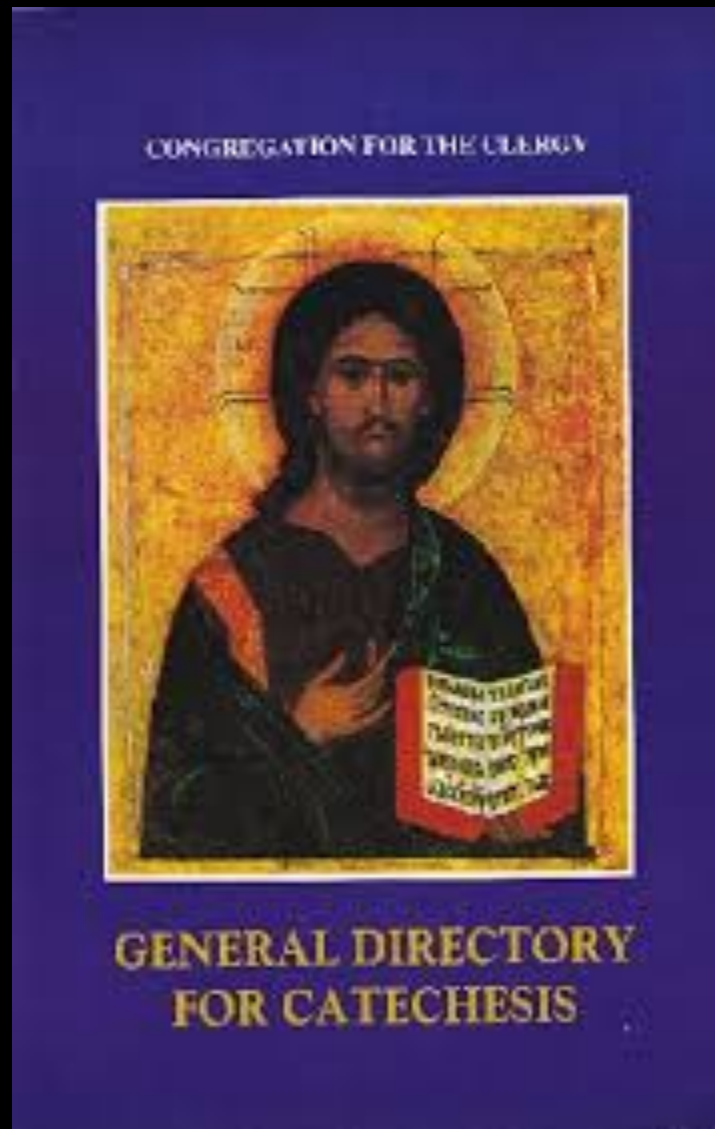
What has the RCIA got to do
with youth ministry?

CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY



GENERAL DIRECTORY
FOR CATECHESIS

“The model for all
catechesis is the
baptismal
catechumenate”
(GDC 59)



“The model for all catechesis is the baptismal catechumenate”
(GDC 59)

How did the Church arrive at this statement?

Why?

Ad Gentes, Vatican II's document on mission, describes an ideal process of evangelisation consisting of:

- Christian witness, dialogue and presence in charity
- The proclamation of the Gospel and the call to conversion
- The catechumenate and Christian initiation
- The formation of Christian communities

The Process of Evangelisation and the RCIA

Ad Gentes

Christian witness, dialogue
and presence in charity

The proclamation of the
Gospel and the call to
conversion

The catechumenate and
Christian initiation

The formation of Christian
communities

The RCIA

1. Pre-catechumenate

2. Catechumenate

3. Lent

[Baptism, confirmation and
Eucharist]

4. Mystagogy



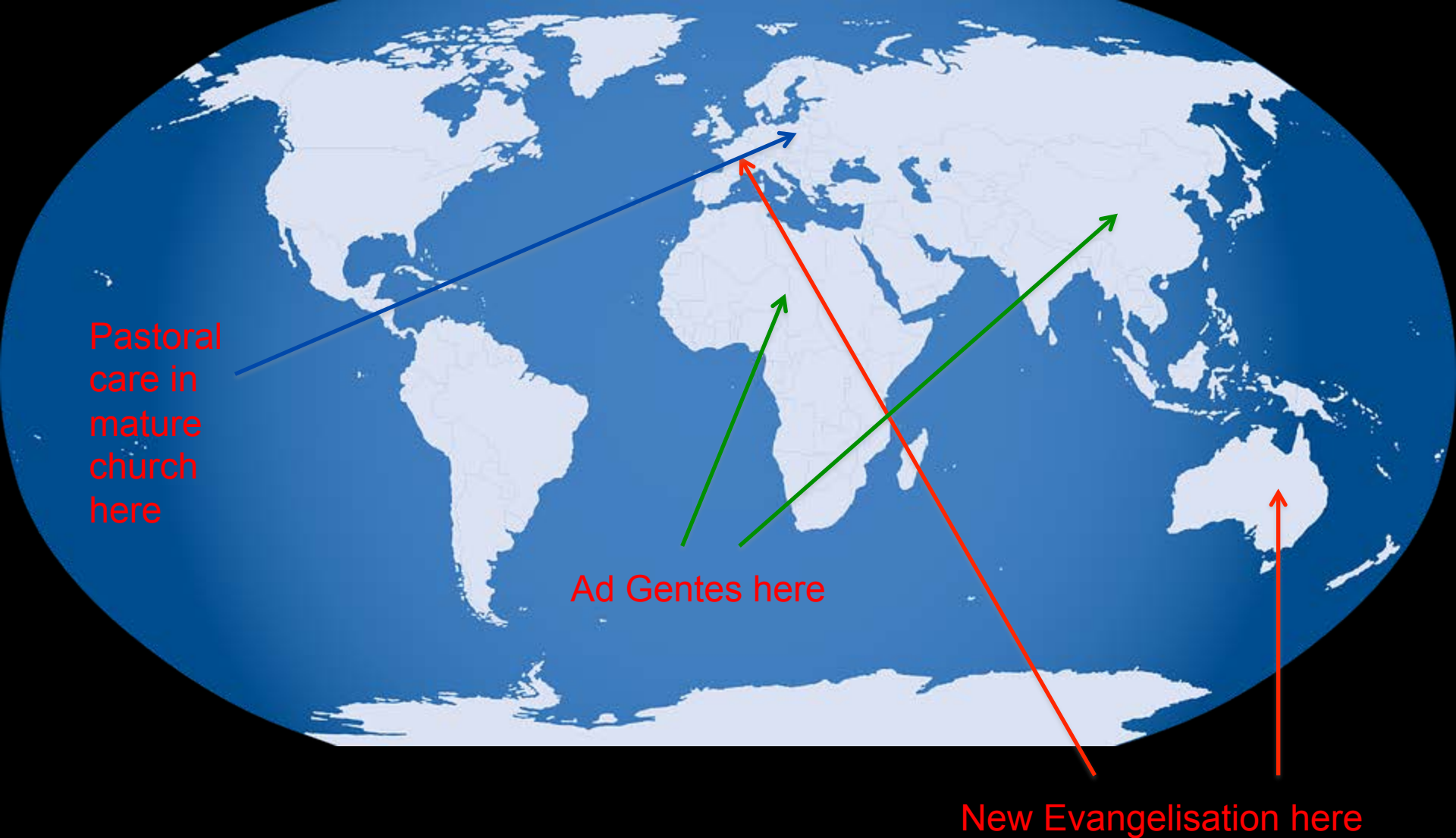
For John Paul II: This process
of evangelisation belongs to
the mission *ad gentes* –
evangelisation in contexts
where the Gospel has **never**
been proclaimed

The mission *ad gentes* is
paradigmatic for all missionary
activity:

So the process of evangelisation
is the model for the “*New
Evangelisation*” and the pastoral
care of the faithful

GDC 59

Evangelii Gaudium 15



These were once distinguished
geographically ...

But due to globalisation,
religious pluralism and migration ...



... these contexts now co-exist

In Australian youth ministry today then ...

We should be preparing for, and working
with young people who:

- Are the children of practicing parents
- Have been baptised but have not been practicing their faith
- Have never been baptised

All 3 groups need a process grounded in the RCIA:

- Those who have not been baptised need the RCIA (or RCICCA) itself
- Those who have been baptised but not evangelised or catechised need something analogous to the pre-catechumenate and catechumenate
- The children of practicing parents need to “complete their initiation”

The children of practicing parents need to “complete their initiation”:

➡ Because a personal profession of faith is intrinsic to the sacrament

➡ This personal profession of faith presumes instruction concerning the content of faith (catechesis)

➡ which in turn presumes initial faith and conversion ➡ evangelisation

So they need something like the RCIA too



The initiatory dynamic of youth ministry

Unpacking the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Restored at
Vatican II

Published in 1972

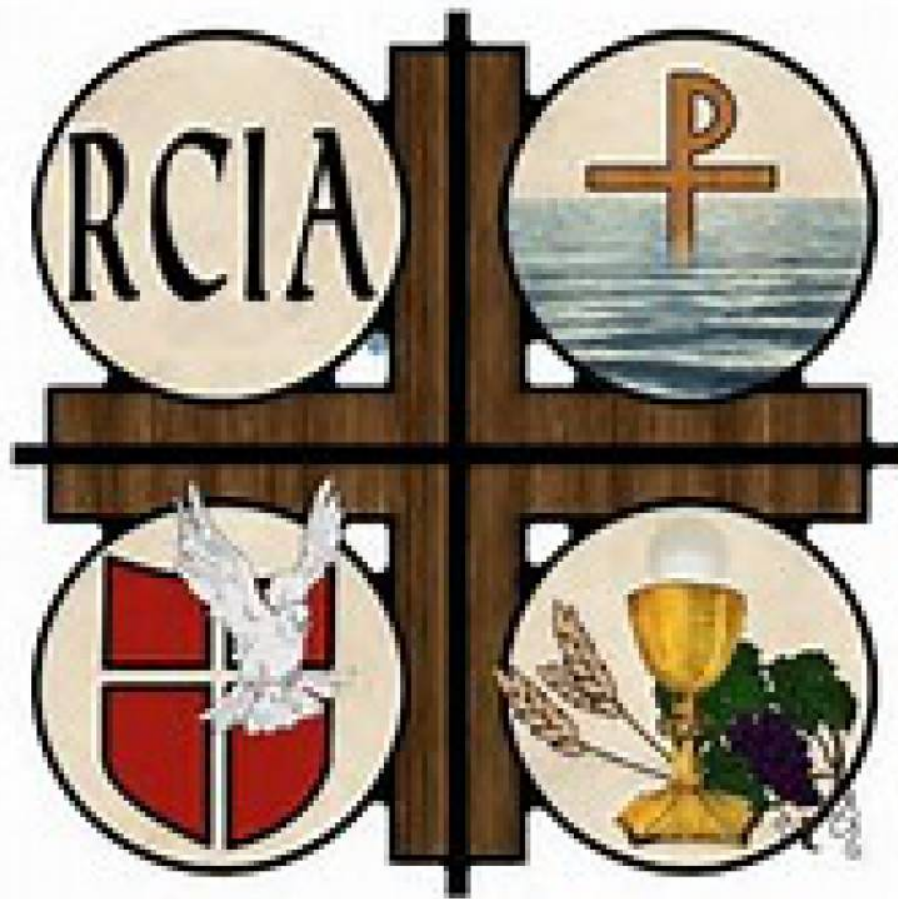
Based on
catechumenate
of 3rd to 5th centuries
(*ressourcement*)



The RCIA

Evangelisation or Pre-catechumenate		Catechumenate		Purification and Enlightenment		Mystagogy
“Inquirer”		“Catechumen”		“elect”		“neophytes”
Witness Dialogue Presence in charity	Rite of Acceptance	Training or apprenticeship in Christian life	Rite of Enrolment of Names	Lent	Sacraments of initiation	Catechesis upon
Initial proclamation of the Gospel		Communal life Liturgical prayer Mission		Intense spiritual preparation		Experience of Sacraments
Response of initial faith and conversion		Catechesis		Deeper knowledge of Christ the Saviour		Integration into faith
		Rites: celebrations of word, minor exorcisms, blessings, anointings		Prayer		Community
		Dismissed at eucharist		3 scrutinies Presentations of Creed and Lord’s Prayer		Life of discipleship communion and mission

Key Principles



1. The Paschal Mystery:

Jesus' death,
resurrection, ascension
and gift of the Spirit

for our salvation

is realised
sacramentally

2. task of the whole community

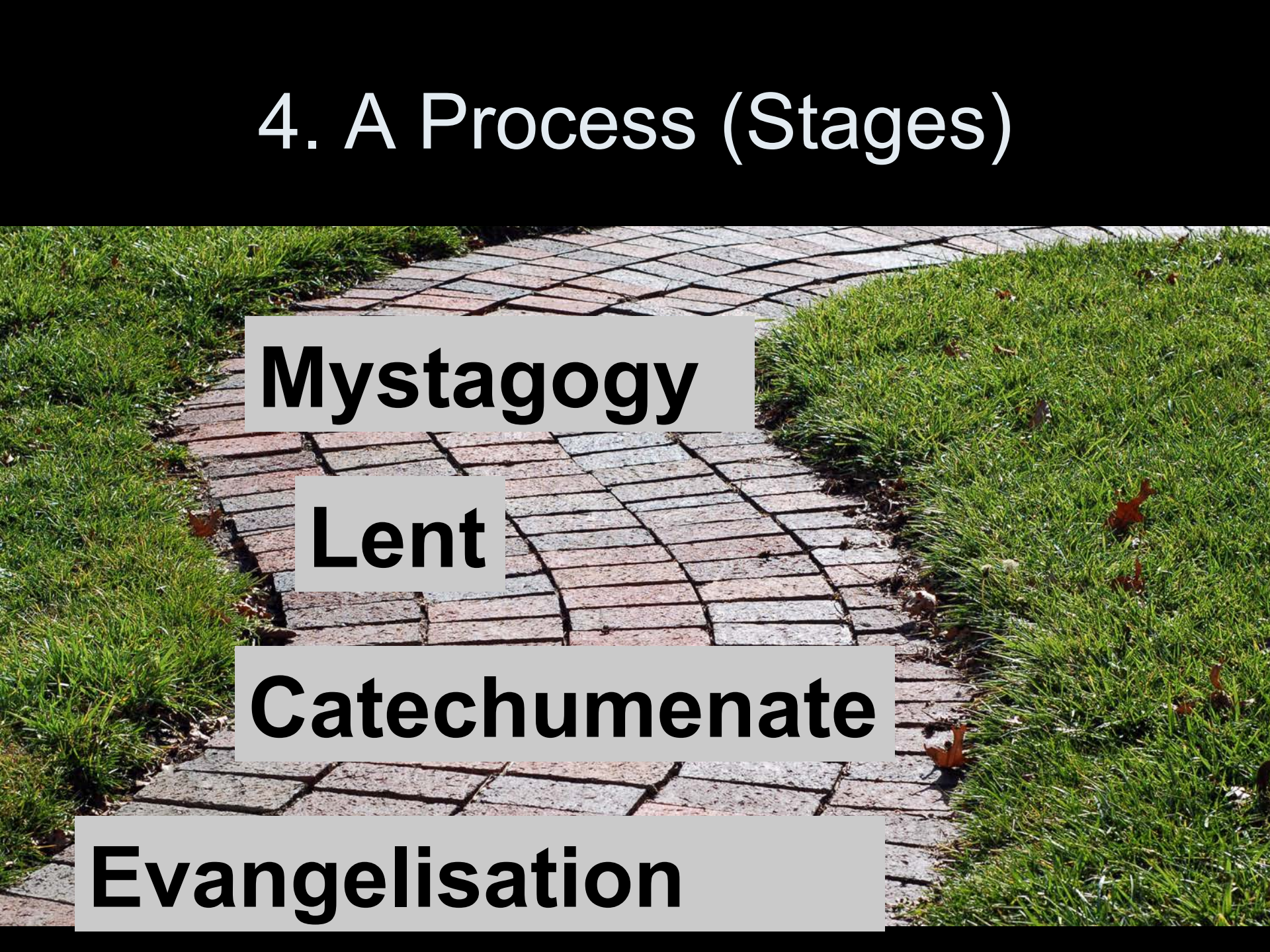


Carl Dowling



3. Centrality of Conversion

4. A Process (Stages)

A photograph of a brick path leading through green grass. The path is made of reddish-brown bricks laid in a herringbone pattern. The grass is green with some scattered brown leaves. Four text boxes are overlaid on the path, each containing a stage of a process.

Mystagogy

Lent

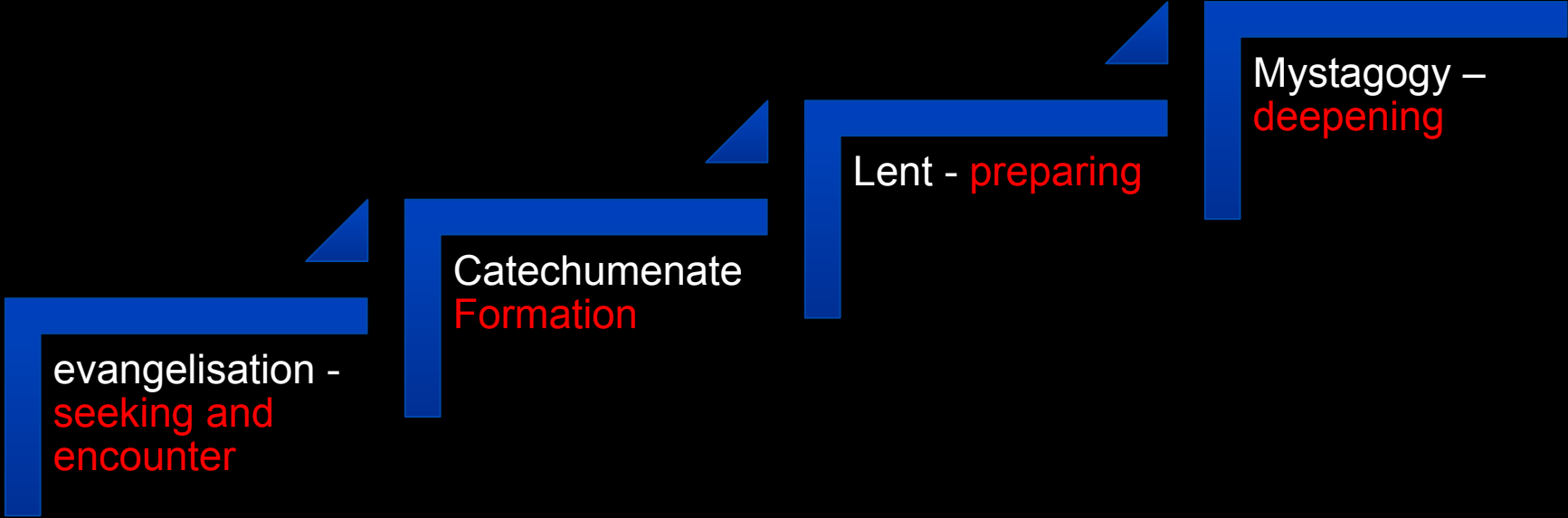
Catechumenate

Evangelisation

Part III:

Youth ministry's initiator dynamic





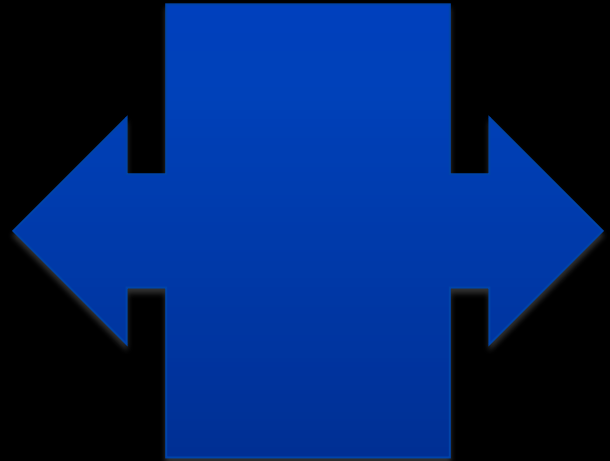
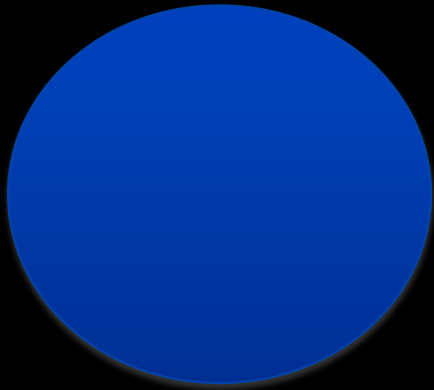
evangelisation -
seeking and
encounter

Catechumenate
Formation

Lent - preparing

Mystagogy –
deepening

Youth Ministry by Stages



Evangelisation Stage

- Receiving the Seekers
 - Witness
 - Dialogue
 - Presence in charity
- Participate in practices of the community
- Initial Proclamation of the Gospel



Equivalent of Entry into catechumenate >

Personal decision to take next
step in youth ministry

Formation Stage

- Integral conversion
 - to Triune God
 - Affective, intellectual, moral dimensions
- Participation in the faith community's life
 - Social (communion), liturgical, missionary
- Catechesis - Word of God
- Ritual action

A second step analogous to
rite of enrolment

Lent

An initiating community on a common journey

- Elect
- Young people
- Whole faith community renews its conversion and prepares for initiation

Retreat

Initiation

- Unbaptised – Easter initiation
- Nominally baptised – appropriation of initiation > Pentecost?
 - Confirmation/Eucharist if necessary
- Children of practicing parents – appropriation of initiation > Pentecost?

Conclusion: Re-imagining Church:

The problem: our faith communities

The solution:

An Initiating Church for

- Adults
- Young people
- The whole community

