

Holy Journey

Post-Initiation Continuity Mission

CENTRAL MISSION

Holy Journey helps parishes accompany new Catholics beyond initiation so they become rooted in ordinary Catholic life, mature in discipleship, discover their vocation and place in the Church, and continue toward lifelong holiness.

The continuity gap

Christian initiation is a beginning, not a graduation. After initiation, a new Catholic must learn how to live the faith in ordinary life: Sunday Mass, the Eucharist, Confession, prayer, Catholic friendships, parish belonging, vocation, service, witness, and perseverance when the intensity of conversion gives way to everyday life.

This first year can be formative. It is a period when habits, relationships, sacramental rhythms, and a sense of belonging begin to take root. Without intentional accompaniment, a newly initiated person can easily feel that the structured support of initiation has ended just when real Catholic life is beginning.

Holy Journey's role

Holy Journey is the continuity layer connecting Christian initiation to lifelong Catholic discipleship. It is designed to help a parish remain present to a newly initiated or newly received Catholic during the transition from formal initiation into ordinary Catholic life.

The pathway is **parish-owned, relationship-driven, and formation-centered**. Holy Journey does not replace OCIA, its rites, parish discernment, sacramental preparation, or the Church's mystagogical responsibility. It serves the parish by helping extend accompaniment into the months when the new Catholic is learning how to live the faith as a member of the Church.

A SIMPLE PROMISE

"We help your parish ensure that no new Catholic has to figure out Catholic life alone after initiation."

The first-year pathway

Holy Journey should guide a new Catholic through the first year after initiation with a clear movement from belonging to participation, from participation to mission, and from mission toward lifelong holiness.

1. Rooted in Catholic Life Build stable rhythms of Mass, Eucharist, Confession, prayer, Scripture, parish belonging, and friendship.	2. Accompanied in Relationship Maintain real human connection through trained leaders, companions, sponsors, or small groups so the person is known, noticed, and supported.
3. Formed for Mission Help the new Catholic recognize vocation, gifts, charisms, service, witness, family responsibilities, and participation in the Church's mission.	4. Oriented Toward Holiness Make clear that Catholic life does not end with "getting involved." The ultimate horizon is lifelong conversion, perseverance, and communion with God.

How the Holy Journey volumes support this mission

Volume 1	Introduction / Evangelization Introduces someone to God, Christian faith, Jesus Christ, and the Catholic Church.
Volumes 2-5	Core Catholic Formation Internally, these volumes reinforce and deepen the doctrinal and formative foundations associated with Christian initiation, then expand into conversion, daily discipleship, the interior life, moral formation, virtue, prudence, and discernment. This is an internal curriculum principle, not a public comparison with OCIA.
Volumes 6-7	Continuing Formation After Initiation These volumes are especially suited to helping a newly initiated or newly received Catholic move into vocation, mission, service, witness, perseverance, and lifelong holiness.

The relationship model

Holy Journey should not become simply a curriculum handed to new Catholics. Its distinctive value is the combination of **formation + relationship + parish integration**. The long-term model can include small-group accompaniment, trained facilitators, sponsor or mentor continuity, practical Catholic-life formation, ministry and vocation discernment, pastoral referral boundaries, and a meaningful first-anniversary milestone.

What Holy Journey is trying to prevent

- A newly initiated Catholic experiencing initiation as the end of formation.
- The loss of relationships and structure immediately after initiation.
- A person remaining sacramentally initiated but socially disconnected from parish life.
- Early enthusiasm fading without durable habits of prayer and sacramental life.
- Service becoming random volunteering rather than discerned vocation and mission.
- A new Catholic assuming that questions, struggle, or disappointment mean something has gone wrong.

The deeper vision

Holy Journey exists to help a person **start well and continue well**. The first year after initiation is not the destination. It is the beginning of a lifelong vocation of following Christ, participating in His Church, serving according to one's gifts and state of life, persevering through difficulty, and growing in holiness.

FROM INITIATION TO LIFELONG HOLINESS

Encounter -> Formation -> Initiation -> Accompanied Catholic Life -> Mission -> Lifelong Holiness

Governing boundary

Holy Journey must never be presented as a replacement, substitute, equivalent, or alternative to OCIA, sacramental preparation, parish discernment, or the Church's rites of initiation. Its mission is continuity: helping the parish accompany people after initiation and helping Catholics continue growing into mature discipleship, mission, and holiness.

Central mission statement: A central mission of Holy Journey is to close the continuity gap between Christian initiation and lifelong Catholic discipleship by equipping parishes to accompany newly initiated and newly received Catholics as they become rooted in ordinary Catholic life, discover vocation and mission, and continue toward holiness.