

RCIA

Being One with Jesus

Seekers come to the Catholic Church for a variety of reasons. Some have attended Mass for years and now have decided to take the step of entering the Church fulfilling the desire to fully participate in the Church and receive the Sacraments. Still others have only recently set foot into the Sanctuary and felt a Presence, an urging to come and join. For some, they have seen real joy in Catholic friends or family members. They watch these people as they walk in their faith and enter into the celebration of Mass each week growing as Christians with fellow parishioners who practice their faith in their daily lives through ministry, prayer and devotion.

Whatever the reasons, people come every year desiring to become Catholics and to experience themselves the gifts of Jesus' Church, the Catholic Church.

It is a humbling ministry as those who lead through teaching or sponsoring see the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of candidates and catechumens deepening their relationship with Christ. They walk closer with the God who created them and loves them.

Probably the term that most greatly explains the RCIA season is that it is "experiential". Learning is absorbed and reflected upon. It is not rote, but rather, what is shared with those coming into the Church is the love that God has for them as experienced through the Scriptures and the Sacraments. It is learning about having a relationship with the God of all creation who loves us so much that He gave His Son for each of us. It is truly personal and moving.

When the Easter Vigil arrives, the preparation is over and there is great celebration as these newly formed Catholics receive the Sacraments for the first time and are welcomed into the Church family! It is a gift to those who have lead and sponsored these new members to have had a part in His holy work and to see the joy of those who join us as members of the Catholic Church.

RCIA is not a program. It is an experience of becoming one with Jesus through entering the Church and entering deeper into fellowship and love with Him. That experience of RCIA does not end with the Vigil... but just begins. The life in Christ is on-going for these new Catholics as it is for all of us who, through our faith, hold onto His love.

"Let us be one with Jesus...May all moments of our life be for Him alone" – St. Therese de Lisieux.