

## **The Rite of Christian Initiation For Adults**

*Listen, I will tell you a mystery! Corinthians 15:51.*

### **All Are Welcome!**

- Are you or someone you know thinking about becoming Catholic?
- Or would you just like to learn more about the Catholic faith?
- Consider inviting or attending our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Sessions

These sessions are for...

Are you someone who:

- Is interested in becoming a Catholic?
- Was never confirmed?
- Has been away from the Church for awhile? Wants to know about the Catholic Church?
- Is searching or feels an emptiness?
- Has questions or has never felt connected?
- Are you looking for opportunities to take some time out to discover more about “your” faith and church!
- Consider attending the RCIA Program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

Not ready but have questions about church teaching or other issues—

(click on the “Once Catholic” Link back on the “Join the Church Page”

**For more information or details, contact Deacon Doug and Marilyn Cameron at (494-8080)**

What is the RCIA?

First of all R.C.I.A. is an ongoing process...one can begin at anytime during the year.

The early church invited people who were interested in Christianity to join the community on a journey of faith. Those who accepted the invitation became the candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). The candidates were called catechumens and entered into a step-by-step process toward full membership in the Church. It was a time of serious discernment regarding whether or not the catechumen could accept and live the Christian faith. Today the RCIA is an ongoing process of conversion. It is divided into four continuous phases that correspond to a candidate’s progress in Christian formation. (pre-catechumenate, catechumenate, Lenten period before initiation and the post-initiation phase). The RCIA is first and foremost a process not a program. RCIA is for and about people; people searching for a

deeper meaning and answers to who Jesus is in their life. RCIA is a community event. The RCIA sees the Church as community and it also sees the community as the primary ministers of the RCIA. The RCIA is ongoing and multi-dimensional. Christians are made, not born. There is nothing automatic or instantaneous in the initiation of adults. While doctrinal instruction is a part of the process, the initiation of adults aims at changing the heart and transforming the spirit, not just supplying a bank of knowledge. The initiation of adults is for the whole Church, not just for converts. Conversion, after all, is not a once-in-a-lifetime thing. We all experience God's call to turn around. Change our lives and improve our relationship with God. Flannery Connor, the American novelist and short story writer, said it well when she wrote a friend who was considering converting to Catholicism. "I don't think of conversion as being once and for all and that's that. I think once the process has begun and continues that you are continually turning inward toward God and away from your own egocentricity and that you have to see this selfish side of yourself in order to turn away from it. I measure God by everything that I am not. I begin with that." And so does the RCIA