

RCIA INFORMATION

A Journey of Conversion:

Welcome. We want to welcome you to this journey. Taken seriously, you should find it one of the most exciting endeavors of your life. And we are honored to be able to share this part of your faith journey with you.

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It is a process with a beginning, a path and a destination. We will go through periods of awakening, growth and formation marked by celebration of three major rites. The periods are:

- **Inquiry** – This part of the process is open, informal and carries NO obligation. We will meet a number of times to discuss your questions and concerns and to review key issues of the Catholic faith. The informal discussions will help you link your personal life story to the Scriptures as witnessed and lived by Catholics. If you desire to continue the conversion journey within the faith community, you will be invited to experience the first major rite of the RCIA journey, the **Rite of Acceptance**, where you will be presented to and recognized by the entire community as pilgrims seeking prayer and support on the journey.
- **Catechumenate** - (the word means "time of serious study") those who have not been baptized become **catechumens**. Baptized Christians and those baptized who have not been taught the faith, become **candidates**. The time of this phase varies according to individual need. You will be given a **Sponsor**, chosen with your input, to travel with you in faith, prayer and dialogue. On the first Sunday of Lent, you (catechumens and candidates) will be sent by St. Martin of Tours Parish community to celebrate the second major rite of the RCIA journey, the **Rite of Election**. This is an indication you have chosen to seek full communion with the Catholic Church.
- **Purification and Enlightenment** - is a time of final preparation for initiation, during Lent. The period is one of prayer, and reflection for both catechumens, now known as the **Elect**, and **candidates**. **What We Need From You**
- **Attendance**-The dates for us to meet are vitally important to the RCIA process. Please mark these dates on your calendar *as soon as possible*. If you have other commitments we strongly ask you to reschedule them. If this is not possible, please let a team member know as soon as possible:
- **An Open Heart** – Please approach these sessions with an open heart and an engaged mind. We believe the Holy Spirit is our Guide.

What We Expect of You

- **Commitment**- We know all participants in this process are busy individuals with family and work. However, we ask that you notify us if you are unable to attend a session as soon as possible; and that you make a serious commitment to the process through your participation.
- **Confidentiality**- Of necessity the RCIA process will involve sharing personal information, concerns and issues. To foster a community of trust, we expect that confidences shared within the process will **not** be shared outside the RCIA community.

What You Should Expect of Us

- **Commitment** -Not all members will attend every RCIA event. But we will be here to help you explore your journey and to share our journeys.
- **Communication**-If, at any time, you are confused, annoyed, even angered by something happening in RCIA or in the Catholic Church, we will be here to discuss whatever it is that you need to discuss.
- **Answers . . . usually** - we bring varied backgrounds with us. So if you have a question, please ask. If we do not know the answer, we will find an answer for you or encourage you to continue to seek prayerfully.
- **Support . . .** ***You should always feel free to approach your sponsor or a team member at any time. And if you do not feel free to approach any of us, we really need to know that as well.***

Contact us: Deacon Mike Grzeca 715-745-6681 mg8549@frontier.com

Here is an example of one of our session discussion items.

(This would open at the Inquiry 3. What Catholics Believe sheet)

Last would be our RCIA poster for this year, beginning on June 26th.