

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

WHAT IS R.C.I.A.? & WHO IS IT FOR?

When the disciples of John approached Jesus and asked “Where do you live?”

Jesus simply said: “Come and See.”

That one sentence is a summary of both the motive for and the object of R.C.I.A. We welcome you to accept this invitation, Come and See.

Come and See what?

Come and See what God is leading you to, by the inspiration you have sensed that led you to this website. What you think is happenstance, can as easily be God's plan unfolding for you.

Now Come and See what it offers you!

What is it?

“R.C.I.A.” stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. “Rite” means both a process leading to and the celebration of Christian initiation. “Christian Initiation” means coming to accepting and responding to the reality of Christ in your life through a process of investigation, education, experience and immersion in the original Christian tradition of Catholicism, and celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation, namely Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. “For Adults” refers to those at least eighteen years of age.

Which Adults is it for?

This process of R.C.I.A. was designed, first, for unbaptized persons; and, secondly, for baptized but uncatechized Catholics (such as those who, after baptism, were never raised as Catholics) who are seeking to prepare for and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. The third focus is on meeting the needs of baptized non-Catholics who are inquiring about the Catholic tradition of Christianity. In our parish, we open the doors of R.C.I.A. also to other Catholics who have completed the Sacraments of Initiation and who may be returning to the practice of their faith, or simply want to confront the primary beliefs of their faith at an adult level. Wherever you fit in, we hope you feel welcome and included!

How does it happen?

R.C.I.A. is conducted in 5 stages.

#1 is the Pre-Catechumenate. Beginning whenever, this is the inquiry stage. Lots of questions! Lots of answers! Lots of issues! Lots to ponder! Where do I come from? Where am I going? What is this journey of Life? How is God the Source and End of my Life? How has God revealed himself? What is God's plan for me? How do God and I communicate in prayer? Where did the Bible come from and why? How are bibles

different and why? What does the bible reveal to us about God as Father, Jesus as Son, and Holy Spirit? What is this matter of Scripture and Tradition, Faith and Creed? What do I really believe?

#2 is the Catechumenate. This begins in December and focuses more on the things particularly Catholic, as institution of the Catholic Church; its teachings and values; an overview of its history; the heritage of its sacraments and sacramentals; elements of the Creed; and celebrations of Mass and other liturgies.

#3 is the Discernment phase that starts on Ash Wednesday at the start of Lent. During that time before Easter, candidates decide whether they desire and are ready and prepared to receive initiation into full communion of the Catholic Church.

#4 celebrates the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, the premier liturgy of the Catholic Church on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday.

#5 is called Mystagogy, meaning an internship of how I live like the Catholic I now am, in my relationship with God, family, neighbors, parish, community and nation. On Pentecost Sunday (near Memorial Day) we celebrate the birthday of the Catholic Church, when we, who were invited to “Come and See”, having come to believe and accept, are now commissioned to “Go and Be.”

When does it meet?

Though usually starting in September, the Inquiry phase is available to begin by personal appointment at any mutually convenient time. September through May. R.C.I.A. meets primarily on Tuesday nights, 7 - 9 p.m. in the parish meeting rooms, and on other scheduled dates.

How much does it cost?

For all the R.C.I.A. process there is no cost, but much, much gain!

What now?

Let's get together for a chat. We can do that in my office, your place, your home, or somewhere for lunch. Simply phone me at 644-9717, so we can set a date, soon. I do look forward to talking with you. Come and See!

Deacon Ken