

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, known as the R.C.I.A., is a process through which the non-baptized, those baptized in other Christian traditions, and baptized Catholics receive formation in the Church's teachings (catechetical, moral and spiritual), and are prepared to receive all or some of the sacraments of initiation, namely, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (Holy Communion).



For non-Catholics, there is a period of inquiry, encouraging one to fully explore and question any Catholic beliefs and practices held during the Church's 2000 years of existence. Once this inquiry period has ended, a commitment may be made. This commitment to proceed begins the period of pre-sacramental instructions which will culminate in the celebration of the sacrament desired. Thereafter, each person, like the other members of the Church, commits to lifelong faith



formations and growth (spiritual, moral, intellectual, and pastoral). This is done through attending as many parish retreats, bible studies and doctrinal instructions, as is possible; also engaging in active stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Simply put, the person makes a lifelong commitment to follow the Lord Jesus as a practicing Catholic Christian.

The group process is facilitated by a team of nine trained and qualified Catholic women and men of different vocational backgrounds – medicine, real estate, law, military, and education, and people originally from different religious backgrounds – Buddhist, Jewish, Protestant, and cradle Catholics. This diversity, coupled with various methods of presentation on numerous topics, is a rich source of interest for adults so much so that fully initiated Catholics have sat in on sessions just for enrichment. You, also, are invited and most welcomed to join us.

For R.C.I.A. information, call Ann Marie at 489-3643; for the children and youth counterpart, sometimes called Christian Initiation of Children (C.I.C), please contact Claire at claire@stjohncc.com or 489-3166.

Biblical Reference

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2 41-42).

Teaching of the Church

The rite of Christian initiation presented here is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully [(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1232, footnote 35; Cf. RCIA (1972)]