

Faith Tidbits..
a little food for thought
and some knowledge
about your
Catholic faith

September 2009

This monthly series will answer questions you always wondered about or questions you never even thought to ask... all about our Catholic Faith.

If you have a question you want answered, call Diane Hardick at 633-3672.

1. What is the R.C.I.A. and why does it take almost a year to become Catholic?

R.C.I.A. stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The R.C.I.A. is a journey of conversion for the person who chooses to be a part of the initiation process. Many people come searching for a Church to which they can belong; searching for a relationship with God; searching for a community of faith that will guide them in their life. Some are not baptized. Some have been baptized in a Protestant faith and are now seeking to become Catholic. Some have been coming to the Catholic Church with their family for several years and now decide it is time to find out more about the Catholic faith. The process here at our parish begins in September (September 8 this year). People are welcomed. The sessions include prayer and ritual, breaking open the Scriptures for the coming Sunday, as well as a presentation on what we believe as Catholic Christians. We begin often as strangers, and through the weeks we become a community of faith, supporting one another and growing in faith together—the R.C.I.A. Team, Sponsors and Inquirers. Yes, it takes almost a year because conversion takes time, but when people are ready to take the final steps to becoming Catholic, we celebrate their initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday night before Easter with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. All the Inquirers, who have become Catechumens (not baptized) or Candidates (baptized), are fully initiated at this Mass. Often Inquirers are surprised at what is involved in becoming Catholic through the R.C.I.A., but at the end of the year, they are sorry that it is over and we are no longer gathering on Tuesday night. Hopefully, this experience has helped them to become involved in the ministries of the parish so that they will continue to grow in their faith, as all of us are called to do. Are you someone who may be interested in the Catholic faith? Come to the Parish Center on September 8 at 7 PM. If you know someone, bring them. All are welcome to God's Church!

2. Where do all the words, acclamations, responses we use at Mass come from?

Most of our responses and acclamations used at Mass come for Scripture. The Greeting, The Lord be with you comes from 2 Timothy 4:22. The Gloria is found in Luke 2:14. You can find the Holy, Holy in the Book of Revelation 4:8. The Alleluia sung before our Gospel reading is found also in Revelation, Chapter 19:1. The Greeting Peace be with you is found in Luke 24:36. The words of Consecration are taken from the Last Supper Discourse found in the Synoptic Gospels, Matthew 26:26-29. Mark 14:22-14-20 and Luke 22:14-20 as well as parts from John 6. The Lamb of God is found in John 1:29 and the Amen can be found 126 times throughout the Bible. Amen is a Hebrew word meaning, "certainly, truly" and is used to give assent to a statement, a Blessing, a prayer or the like. We say it first as a community, and then as individuals when we are giving our assent to the Eucharist truly being The Body and Blood of Christ. The Scriptures can readily be found in our songs as well: Here I am Lord from the story of the Call of Samuel; Be Not Afraid as a phrase is used many times throughout the Bible; All You Who Are Thirsty from Isaiah 55, and so on. In our Gather song book you can find the Scripture references in small print at the bottom of many of the songs.