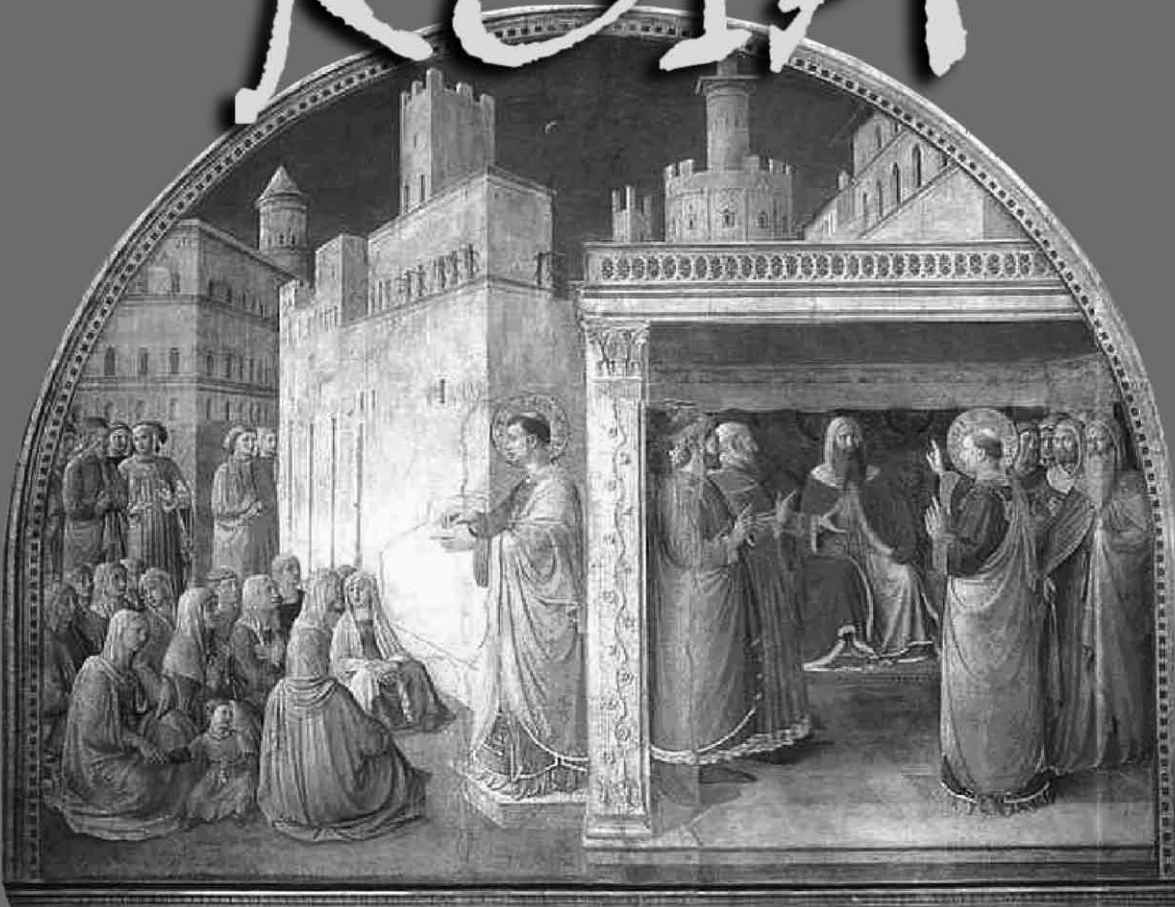


HEARING THE CALL OF CHRIST.

# RCIA



## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

2009 - 2010

JOURNEY OF FAITH

THE REIGN OF GOD IS AT HAND!

LORD, YOU SHOW US THE PATH OF LIFE.

WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



# The RCIA Program

## INTRODUCTION

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Program is designed for adults who, hearing the call of Christ, 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, this program hopes to help strengthen the person seeking full communion with the Catholic Church in knowledge and spirituality of the Catholic Faith. RCIA is suited to a spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God's grace, the free cooperation of the individuals, the action of the Church, and the circumstances of time and place. The usual process includes: Inquiry Period, Period of the Catechumenate, Period of Purification & Enlightenment, Easter Vigil, and Mystagogia.

### The Process... The Inquiry Period

The inquiry period provides a general introduction to the Catholic Faith and is made up of several informational sessions that usually include basic presentations on Catholicism, explanations of Scripture, testimonies, etc. This period is set aside for those interested to inquire more about the Catholic Church. It is also a time set aside so that the genuine will to follow Christ and seek full communion with the Catholic Church may mature. Sometime in October, those who wish to continue in the process will take part in the *Rite of Welcome* (the actual date will vary from parish to parish) where those who have not received Christian baptism will be accepted as catechumens while those who have received Christian baptism will be accepted as *candidates*.

### Period of the Catechumenate

After the *Rite of Acceptance*, the catechumen or candidate enters a period on instruction in the teachings of the Catholic Church. This period includes study of the doctrines (usually following the *Apostles' Creed*) and the moral teaching so the Church along with liturgical and spiritual formation. There is also a Sunday morning Bible Study session offered at St. Charles Borromeo parish focusing on the Sunday readings and various points of Catholic customs and traditions. On the First Sunday of Lent, those wishing to continue will take part

in the *Rite of Election* at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Worker in La Crosse with the Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, Bishop of La Crosse. By this rite, the Church formally ratifies the catechumens' and candidates' readiness for the sacraments of initiation.

### Period of Purification & Enlightenment

This time during Lent is a time of reflection intensely focused on conversion. It includes sessions centering on spiritual and liturgical development. Also included is more immediate preparation for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

### Easter Vigil

The *Easter Vigil* (Holy Saturday evening) marks the celebration of the rites of initiation. It is here that those who have been preparing are welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church.

### Mystagogia

This is a time in the Easter season includes a few catechetical sessions and celebrations. The neophytes continue to gather weekly, supported by the community and their godparents, until Pentecost. Mystagogia is the final period of the initiation process, but the beginning of the responsibility of discipleship.

## INQUIRY SESSIONS

LOCATION: **St. Charles Borromeo  
Parish Ministry Room**

DATES: **September 8, 2009  
September 15, 2009  
September 22, 2009**

TIME: **7 - 8:30 p.m.**

## TOPICS

What it means to be a Catholic, Explanation of the RCIA process, Testimonials from converts, an Introduction to the Catholic Liturgy.

## PRESENTERS

*Deacon Thomas Kinnick, Rita Nowak*, and members of the past RCIA groups, who are now in full communion with the Catholic Church, will do the presenting.

# CATECHETICAL SESSIONS

St. Charles Borromeo Church / 7-9 p.m.

## TUESDAY SESSIONS Dates for 2009-2010

2009 Tuesday Session	2010 Tuesday Session
September 29	January 5
October 6	January 12
October 13	January 19
October 27	February 2
November 3	February 9
November 10	February 23
November 17	March 2
November 24	March 9
December 8	March 16
December 15	March 23

### Topics Include

The Creed (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church and the final things), Sacred Scripture, Sacraments, Prayer and the Liturgy, and the Moral Teachings of the Catholic Church (emphasis on the Ten Commandments).

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

### Rite of Welcome

Sunday, September 27, 2009

PLACE: St. Charles Borromeo Church

TIME: 11 a.m. Mass

### Rite of Sending

Saturday, February 20, 2010

PLACE: St. Charles Borromeo Church

TIME: 4 p.m. Mass

### Rite of Election

Sunday, February 21, 2010

PLACE: Cathedral of St. Joseph the Worker, LaCrosse, WI

TIME: TBA

### Retreat

Saturday, April 3, 2010

PLACE: St. Charles Borromeo Church

TIME: 8 a.m. - 12 noon



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### What are the Sacraments of Initiation?

The *Catechism* has divided the seven sacraments into three categories: Initiation, Healing, and Service. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation lay the *foundation* of every Christian life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1212).

### Is the Bible really God's Word?

*God is the author of Sacred Scripture.* The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (*ccc* 105). God inspired the human authors of the sacred books (*ccc* 106). The inspired books teach the truth (*ccc* 107). In Sacred Scripture God speaks to man in a human way (*ccc* 109).

### What does 'Catholic' mean?

The word "Catholic" means "universal," in the sense of "according to the totality" or "in keeping with the whole." The Church is Catholic in a double sense: First, the Church is Catholic because Christ is present in her. In her subsists the fullness of Christ's body united with its head; this implies that she receives from him "the fullness of the means of salvation" which he has willed: correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession. The Church was, in this fundamental sense, Catholic on the day of Pentecost. Secondly, the Church is Catholic because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race (*ccc* 830, 831).

