

# Welcome to the RCIA Experience

**Preparing Adults for Discipleship**

**August 22, 2017**

# RCIA: A Journey of Faith

- ❖ If you use all your strength...
- ❖ Journey, relationship, not just me and God
- ❖ Come to “know God” more deeply
- ❖ Responding to the call to follow

# Q: What is Conversion?

- ❖ e.g. currency

- ❖ Christian Perspective:

  - ❖ An **Ongoing** transformation into the image of Jesus

  - ❖ Struggle / Process

- ❖ **Turn & Talk:**

What's my conversion story?

# Q: What's RCIA?

- ❖ Responding to God's call
- ❖ Sacraments of Initiation

## Steps

Inquiry

Catechumenate

Purification/Enlightenment

Mystagogia

## Rite/Celebration

Acceptance/Welcome

Election

Easter Vigil

Living the Sacraments

# Questions?

# What does it mean to be Catholic?



# Proper “Framing” is Important...

Consider this example: “A newspaper is better than a magazine. A seashore is a better place than the street. At first it is better to run than to walk. You may have to try several times. It takes some skill, but it’s easy to learn. Even young children can enjoy it. Birds seldom get too close. Rain, however, soaks in very fast. One needs lots of room. If there are no complications it can be very peaceful. A rock will serve as an anchor. If it breaks loose, however, you will not get a second chance.”

# **Without context this narrative doesn't make sense**

Maybe a few things hold a little meaning, but without the “framing” we can easily...

...get lost

...get frustrated

...eventually give up trying to understand

...or come up with our own interpretation

Maybe Church teaching  
- whether on the Trinity, Incarnation,  
Virgin Mary, morals, or sexuality –  
hasn't made sense to us because we  
haven't been given the right frame.

*Kite...*

Now read that “meaningless”  
paragraph again.

“A newspaper is better than a magazine. A seashore is a better place than the street. At first it is better to run than to walk. You may have to try several times. It takes some skill, but it’s easy to learn. Even young children can enjoy it. Birds seldom get too close. Rain, however, soaks in very fast. One needs lots of room. If there are no complications it can be very peaceful. A rock will serve as an anchor. If it breaks loose, however, you will not get a second chance.”

Mike Metzger, Clapham Institute

Christopher West, *Fill These Hearts*

**What does it really  
mean to be Catholic?**

**What do we already know**



# We Believe...



- \* in one loving, personal God in three divine persons
- \* that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God
- \* that Christ died for us, rose from the dead, and will come again

# We Believe...



❖ that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist

❖ that scripture is the primary, sufficient, and reliable source of our beliefs



❖ and more...

# But being Catholic is more than...

- ❖ a religion (a collection of beliefs and values)
- ❖ a set of rules and regulations
- ❖ an assortment of duties and obligations

# Being Catholic means...

- ❖ Striving to live the Gospel
- ❖ Being authentic and realizing our full potential
- ❖ Trying to be like Jesus



# It means...

- ❖ Being part of a community
- ❖ Drawing on a rich spiritual tradition
- ❖ Always having something to **celebrate**
- ❖ Having examples of wonderful heroes and heroines
- ❖ Promoting peace and justice
- ❖ Participating in a universal faith

# In the final analysis...

Being a Catholic Christian is not about being a member of an institution.

**It's about being a member of *the Body of Christ*.**

It's not just about what you believe.

**It's about *relationship*...**

It's not mainly about following the rules.

**It is about following *Jesus*.**

May God grant us the grace to answer the call to faithfully follow Jesus in all things. Amen.