

THE EVANGELIZING PARISH



Truth Demands a Witness

The Gospel of John tells the story of Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman near Jacob's well. Eventually, the woman goes back to the city and tells everyone, "Come see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this man be the Christ?" (John 4:29) Jesus bore witness to himself, the apostles bore witness to Jesus, as does all of Scripture. Jesus also calls each of us to bear witness to himself and to his Church.

We call this witness "evangelization." It's the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ, as it has been entrusted to the Church he established. When we evangelize, we explain the truths of the Catholic faith and invite people to consider them and to consider becoming Catholics. We offer them a welcome into the house that God built for them.

Being Catholic means that everywhere, the world offers opportunities to love and to witness. Every day a Catholic is to see life from the perspective of who God has given him or her to love. It might be family or a friend or a stranger. It might be in comforting physical needs or bearing witness to the good news of Christ's redeeming love. Seeing opportunities to love is the same as having a heart eager to love with the love of Christ, a heart giving witness to the truth.

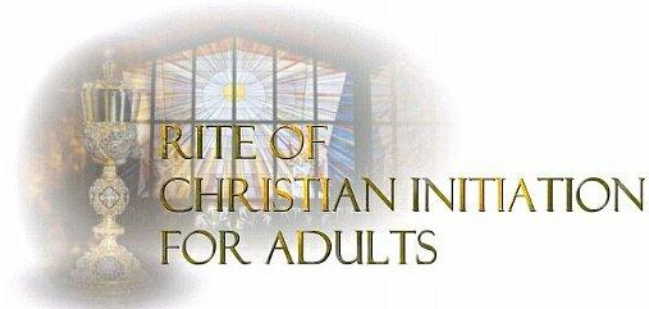
We witness to the truth by the way we live, and by the invitations we extend. Of all the efforts which we make to spread the word about RCIA in advertising, letters, announcements, etc, by far the most effective is personal invitation; perhaps once, perhaps over the course of several encounters of growing interest, perhaps over years of gradually increasing openness in a relationship, a person is personally invited by a Catholic to look into the Catholic faith--to come and see.

Society today tries to tell us that we should keep our faith to ourselves. But Penn Jillette, an avowed atheist (of Penn & Teller, the Las Vegas magic act) puts it into perspective. On a video that's making its rounds on YouTube, he says "If you *believe* that there's a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell, or not getting eternal life. . . how much do you have to hate somebody to *not* proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them?"

This year our RCIA Team has put together invitation packets. If there is someone in your life whom you would like to invite to RCIA, just grab a packet from our office, and hand it to them, saying "I saw this and I thought of you!" What nicer gift can you give than the Good News of Jesus Christ.

RCIA INQUIRY NIGHT
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST 6:30PM, CHURCH HALL

RCIA inquiries may be directed to Amy Julian at amyj@rushmore.com or 642-2306 ext 113.



... CONSIDER IT.