



**“The entire mission of the Church, then, is concentrated and manifested in evangelization”**

*Pope John Paul II,  
"On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World."*

As Catholics, we are called to *be* evangelical, to evangelize; we are called to spread the good news of the Gospel and of the Church which Christ founded. RCIA is the vehicle through which the Church reaches out to our brothers and sisters,

both the baptized and the unbaptized. Here at St. Joseph and St. Paul we are truly fortunate to have an RCIA program which is rich, deep, immersed in scripture, open to the Holy Spirit and faithful to the Magisterium. Those who have participated in it, as candidates, sponsors and team, find themselves drawing closer to God, to the Church and to their parish community in ways which time after time exceed their expectations.

During the month of August, we will be sharing some information about RCIA through the bulletin and announcements. We are hoping to intensify the level of involvement in RCIA as we call for sponsors, hosts, participants and, most importantly, evangelizers. Below are two ways which you can participate in RCIA. In coming weeks we will offer even more. During this time, we ask you to open your heart, and ask God if He is calling you to be a part of the springtime evangelization which is RCIA.

## SPONSORS: A COMPANION ON THE JOURNEY

***“I don’t know my faith well enough to be a sponsor!”***

This is the response I inevitably receive when I ask a parishioner to be a sponsor for RCIA. And it makes me smile every time I hear it.

Frankly, none of us knows our faith well enough! Fortunately, knowing our faith well enough is not a requirement to be a sponsor. A sponsor (or godparent, in the case of those to be baptized) is more of a companion on the journey, one who will “help them persevere in the faith and in their lives as Christians.”

On the Road to Emmaus, Jesus spoke to the two disciples about how his crucifixion and resurrection fulfilled the scriptures. Then he blessed and broke bread



with them, in what many scholars consider to be the first post resurrection mass.

Afterward, the two disciples commented to each other “were not our hearts burning within us?” And together, they returned to Jerusalem

to share the Good News about what they had just experienced.

In many ways this is a model for a sponsor relationship. Not to teach the candidate, but to learn with him, and together to go out and share the Good News and

live the faith as companions.

Participating in the RCIA program as a sponsor does require a commitment of time. But the rewards far exceed the cost. A recent sponsor commented “It was a wonderful experience, well worth the time commitment.” The friendships that are made in RCIA are often life long relationships.

In addition to the personal relationships forged during RCIA, the opportunity to relearn the faith as an adult, from an adult perspective, is another cherished benefit. Many sponsors find their faith so inflamed as a result of this opportunity, they come back again to repeat the experience. This time, they have confidence in their knowledge of their faith.

## HOSPITALITY, THE FACE OF ST. JOSEPH’S PARISH

Are you interested in helping out in RCIA, but haven’t the time to make a regular commitment? We are looking for couples or friends who would be willing to *host* a night of RCIA. This is a wonderful way to participate in welcoming those who are inquiring into the Church.

Hosting RCIA is particularly important in the early part of the program, as it gives our participants a chance to put a friendly face to our parish, a face to recognize the next time they come to mass or even at the grocery store.



*Martha & Mary  
at the  
feet of Christ*

When you agree to host a night of RCIA, you agree to come early and greet our participants, help provide a light snack, and enjoy the class, mingling during break times.

Those who might be called to this ministry include past participants of RCIA, as candidates, sponsors, family or adult education; those who have always wanted to share in this ministry, but haven’t had the opportunity make an extended time commitment, and anyone who has a heart for evangelization. Give us a call, we would love for you to meet some of our inquirers, and we’d love for them to meet you!