

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA - You have seen these initials or heard them, and I would bet many of you do not know what they stand for. They are an outcome of the Second Vatican Council and they stand for: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The Vatican Council set in motion a great movement of Reform and Renewal which has been going on ever since it closed in 1965. Much of this has been in the area of Liturgy. Step by step ever since *1965* the Liturgy of the Mass and of the Sacraments has been restored to the beauty it had in the early days of the Church, with of course adaptation to modern times.

RCIA is the restoration (with appropriate adaptation) of the ancient way in which converts came into the Church. They did not become Catholics simply by taking individual instruction from a priest and being privately baptized when they finished their instruction. They went through what was called the catechumenate, a somewhat lengthy formal process which introduced them, as a group, to the community of the Church. They received not simply information but formation. They were formed by the Church they were joining and they were integrated into the community of believers and made to feel welcome by them.

The Catechumenate had stages which were spaced out

over the year. RCIA has restored the Catechumenate and has established four stages through which converts should pass on their way to becoming full-fledged Catholics.

This is to be done publicly, in the full view of the parish community. All in the parish are asked to pray for the new converts, to welcome them warmly and to rejoice in the enrichment which these new members bring to the parish and to the entire Catholic Church by their conversion.

RCIA (the Rite (or method) of the Christian Initiation of Adults) is now the method by which converts are to be prepared and received in every Parish.

The Church hopes that this instrumentality will contribute greatly to Parish Life, will make us all aware of how open and welcoming we all should be to those whom the grace of God attracts to the Church, and will make those who enter the Church feel very much at home in their new-found faith.

The Parishes of Saint Peter - Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Victory – St. Andrew have been working together closely and more information will shortly be available on RCIA.

--Msgr Filacchione