

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

As was the case with my recent article that included a mention of the reasons for the delay in our church sound system installation, no sooner had I written about the failure of the Archdiocese to provide guidance concerning the RCIA than I heard back from my friend at the Office for Divine Worship! I suppose I need to write about things that are up in the air in order to move the universe to provide answers – though that has yet to produce results when it comes to *Renew My Church*.

Anyway, we are free to begin in-person gatherings for this important program, although because of the social distancing requirements, we won't be able to invite parishioners who might wish to attend the sessions for updating or continuing religious education, so we won't be printing a topic schedule in the bulletin. What I can say is that the current plan is to begin on **Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00p.m.** in the Burke Center, with sessions continuing most Wednesdays through March 31st next year. So if you or someone you know wishes to become a member of the Catholic Church or complete their initiation through Eucharist and/or Confirmation, please **call the rectory this week** or e-mail me: rkyfes@posjhomewood.org. We have three persons who have expressed interest with one who has confirmed her intention to begin, and hopefully all of them will be able to begin this journey next month with our parish community.

There is one thing to be aware of if you or someone you know would consider participating in the RCIA. We will make every effort to maintain social distancing, but there are limits as to what is possible with regard to masks. Attendees will be encouraged to wear masks, but I know that it's simply not possible – at least for me – to keep a mask on for more than fifteen minutes without feeling as if I'm going to pass out, and I certainly can't talk through a mask for an hour or more or project my voice to people who are six to twelve feet away from me. And since an essential and enriching part of the RCIA is the conversation we're able to have during these sessions, I wouldn't necessarily expect everyone to ask questions or make observations through a mask. That being said, we will certainly provide hand sanitizer and ask that participants stay away if they have any telltale symptoms. It's simply the best we can do during these challenging days; but life can't be put on hold forever, especially with something as important as the RCIA.

So, again, please get in touch this week if you wish to participate or if you have any questions.

Fr. Bob