



# IMMACULATE HEART<sup>OF</sup> MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR JULY 22, 2018

Dear friends in the Lord,

Where do you go when you have questions about God? About the meaning of life? We Catholics may seek out a priest or deacon or sister, or turn to another believer, perhaps a friend or family member. Many might ask for the guidance of a trained spiritual director. Or maybe we seek the intercession of the saints or go directly to God in prayer.

But where does someone go who doesn't belong to a community of faith? Many of them, too, seek out a Catholic minister or friend. This may be the first step in wanting to learn more about what Catholics believe and perhaps even the first step in joining the Catholic Church.

A wonderful community of such inquirers will be gathering in the coming months here at IHM. They will meet with members of the community, clergy and laity, to seek answers to their questions and learn about what the Church believes. This first, informal step in the Christian initiation process is called pre-Catechumenate because it precedes the decision and commitment that people in the Catechumenate are called to make.

The pre-Catechumenate is a time of inquiry. It may last a short time or for many months or years; that is up to the inquirer. It is also called the Period of Evangelization because in this time we tell the good news that we have to share: the Christian faith as it is lived by contemporary Catholics. And because the questions that urged the inquirers to learn more about God and the Church are signs of God already present and active in their lives, we listen, too, and help the inquirers see how God has always been with them and where God may be leading them.

If you or someone you know has ever considered becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please consider joining this group of inquirers. Simply give a call to the Faith Formation Office this week, and know that a warm welcome awaits you.

Your brother in Christ's word and work,