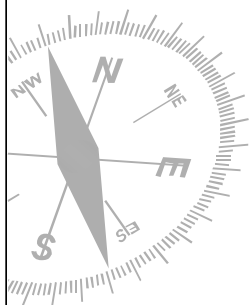


Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
R.C.I.A.

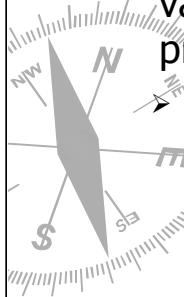


WELCOME!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

R.C.I.A.

- RCIA is an educational and spiritual journey modeled after the process used in the early Church to teach people about Christianity.
- Over the next eight months, we will cover various topics on Scripture, Sacraments, prayer, Church teaching, and history.

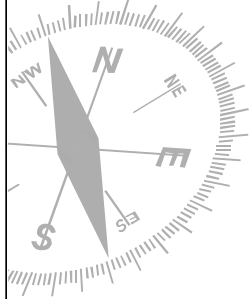


The simple "goal" of RCIA is to provide people with accurate information about what the Catholic Church believes and teaches, while providing an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

R.C.I.A.

- The Class Format
- The Schedule (the Annulment Class)
- The Presenters and Table Facilitators
- The Question Box

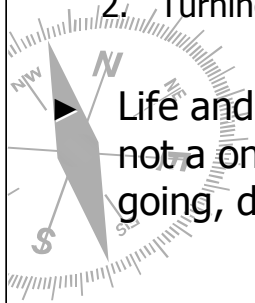


Conversion

Responding to God's Call

► What is conversion?

1. To be changed from one thing to another (like an electrical converter).
2. Turning; to turn to; to return.

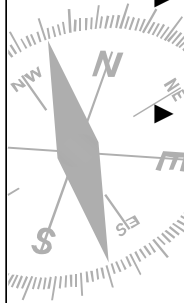


Life and experience teach us that conversion is not a once in a life-time event, but rather an on-going, dynamic process.

Conversion

Responding to God's Call

- ▶ Conversion in the OLD TESTAMENT:
 - Rarely had to do with switching religions, since Judaism was a national religion that someone was born into.
 - ▶ There are some examples, however, of people who worshipped Yahweh, but were not Jewish (ex. Ruth).
 - ▶ A large-scale conversion of Gentiles (non-Jews) to Yahweh was anticipated only as a part of the end-time events (ex. Is. 2:2-4; 66:18-21; Zech. 14:16-17).



Conversion in the OLD TESTAMENT:

The O.T. word for conversion was “shub”, which literally means “to turn.”

References in the Old Testament to conversion mainly had to do with a person turning away from sin and turning back to Yahweh.

Isaiah 6:10

“Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, [but] turn and be healed.”

Psalms 51:13

“I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.”

Conversion

Responding to God's Call

► Conversion in the NEW TESTAMENT:

- The most commonly used word for conversion in the N.T. is "metanoia," which refers to the internal process of conversion.



- There is a second word in the N.T. for conversion, "epistrophe," which refers to an outward process of conversion.

There is only one place in the N.T. where the actual word "conversion" is used, and it is in reference to the conversion of the Gentiles (Acts 15:3).

Conversion

Responding to God's Call

- ▶ Ultimately, conversion must be both of these, internal and external.
 - Jesus not only invited people to repentance, but also to a visible discipleship (Luke 5:11; Matt. 10:38).
 - ▶ Conversion is not simply about changing one's prayer life, or one's faith community, but it's about everything changing— the way we live and the way we love.



"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

- God takes us where we are at and leads us to a new place.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

"For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."