

THE RCIA: THEN AND NOW PART 3

In last week's column, I wrote that the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a model for parish life. That is because our fundamental mission as a parish is to sow and nurture the seeds of God's saving love in the hearts and minds of all of our neighbors and beyond by living the Gospel. If we do that, then, as our vision statement proclaims, we will reap a harvest of passionate disciples of the Lord. That is the also the purpose of the RCIA, which is why the renewal of the RCIA here at St. Boniface has been made a part of our parish pastoral plan.

The RCIA is also a model of parish life for another reason: it calls all of us to do our part to carry out our parish's mission by actively participating in different ways in the RCIA. This begins by our responsibility to faithfully witness Christ to others in our words and actions. This then leads to opportunities to invite others outside the Church to consider exploring a saving relationship with Christ in and through the Catholic Church by participating in the RCIA. The formal RCIA process itself requires the help of many volunteers, as sponsors, catechists, and coordinators, providing another way that we can participate. Finally, we are all called to support those going through the RCIA by our prayer and by our own witness of constant, lifelong conversion to Christ.

In these ways and more the RCIA provides a model for parish life. Prayerfully reflect on that model, and ask God to help you discern the ways he is calling you to participate. While reflecting, also think and pray about those people in your life who are not Catholic but whom you believe may be interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic. Then invite them to consider attending the first handful of sessions which will be held Sundays at 8:45 AM beginning October 1st. By attending these initial, commitment-free sessions, interested persons can come and see what the RCIA is all about, and begin to see what our faith and the Church is all about. If someone is interested, please have them complete the sign-up sheet located in the gathering space or call the parish office for more information. Together, may we as a parish all do our part to continue the mission of Church, the mission of our parish, by leading people to Christ through the RCIA.