

INVITING OTHERS TO JOIN US

We're now just about two months away from the start of the RCIA, the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, and we have two participants planning to attend – a fourteen year-old girl and her mother who, as it seems, were turned away at another parish because they couldn't accommodate a teenager in their program. While it's not always easy to make those accommodations, here at St. Joseph we try to be as flexible and welcoming as possible in order to make our Catholic faith accessible to those who want to enter the Church.

As I mentioned in an earlier article this year and as you might have noticed, we had no one in the RCIA last year, so other staff members and I will be looking forward to spending six months sharing the faith with those who choose to attend. And while it's great to have two participants, it would be even more enriching for the participants if that number were to grow between now and mid-October – but that's up to you!

If you know someone who might be interested in the Catholic Church, even if they're not sure they want to join us through the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, please reach out to them and invite them to contact me. It's important to note that we're not trying to "convert" anyone or take them away from a church community where they feel at home; we just want to help anyone in our community who is searching for a deeper relationship with the Lord to "come and see" as Jesus says in John's Gospel when he invites the first disciples to follow him.

Finally, please remember that we also invite "cradle Catholics" and former RCIA participants to participate in these weekly Wednesday night sessions in the Burke Center. It can be a great way to deepen the understanding of faith that most Catholics learned on only a CCD, Catholic grammar school or high school level. Believe me: learning that the fascinating story of Adam, Eve and the serpent in the Garden of Eden is not **literally** true is a real eye-opener for many!

So...if you know anyone who you think might be interested, invite them to "come and see." Or if you want to deepen your own knowledge of scripture, theology and church teaching, consider becoming a part of the RCIA process while providing both support and an inspiration to those who will be joining us at Easter.

Fr. Bob