

SAID ED September 10, 2017

Rite of Christian Initiation

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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In the summer of 1981 the Church of the Resurrection had an open house to introduce the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to people in Perinton who might be interested in joining the Catholic Church. I went to the open house, where a smiling parishioner, Dick Pelino, greeted us by saying that the Church is not the building, the Church is the people. I have never forgotten those words.

I became a candidate and took part in some great discussions about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the Catholic Church. Everyone was welcoming, friendly, and helpful. Still, I was nervous about going to the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at Sacred Heart Cathedral, because the bishop would be there! At the beginning of the homily, a baby started crying, and the mother got up and was walking quickly up the aisle with the baby, when Bishop Clark asked her not to take the baby out. He wanted them to stay. You see, even crying babies are the Church. Later at the reception, he crossed the room to check out my daughter's new Garfield toy. At Resurrection's Easter Vigil in 1982, about fifteen of us were initiated or received into the Church. These were my first experiences of being a Catholic. They were truly

wonderful, and they inspired me to become a lay minister.

This fall, the RCIA in Fairport is heading in an exciting new direction. We will have a terrific Christian Initiation Team made up of parishioners from Assumption and Resurrection, and we will be meeting at both parishes. We know that potential RCIA candidates are on different spiritual journeys and we truly want to meet you where you are and answer any questions you may have.

Once again, the RCIA is for unbaptized people seven years old or older, for Christians baptized in another denomination (except for the Orthodox Churches), and for baptized Catholics who have reached the age of eleven or twelve and have not celebrated First Communion. You may begin the RCIA process without being obligated to complete it. Please contact me at Sheryl.Zabel@dor.org or at 388-0040 x1330 for more information.

~Sheryl Zabel