

ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

As a cradle Catholic (one baptized when I was 14 days old), I present to you a challenge. **Are you a Leader or are you a Leaver?** The fact that you are reading this website indicates you are half way there. You are not a leaver. But, can you truly be counted among those who are a leader? There is an old saying that if you are not part of the solution, you are then part of the problem. Unless we have had our head and the rest of our body buried in the sand, we know that the mechanics of our church is experiencing a crisis. Notice, I say the mechanics! Our church is founded by Jesus Christ, built on faith and the true word in Holy Scripture. Our religion became alive when the word became flesh and is still alive today. **But, we are faced with a challenge.** The challenge is to renew our church, and LEAD people into and back to the faith. We need to be the leaders. We need to unite with our focus on HIM who is the reason we join as the Body of Christ. Our faith is kept alive through our communal full, active conscious participation in liturgy and the sacramental life.

While our church may have been founded by Christ, it is run by humans with all the human frailties and sins of a human. We do not belong to the church to honor the humans, but rather Him who gave His life for us. When things get tough, when people are disappointed, afraid, betrayed, it is so easy to run away, but we MUST remember that He did not run. Though we are not asked to accept death on a cross, we are asked to remain steadfast in our faith, to support and cherish each other, and pray for the healing and repair of ourselves, all victims and the hierarchy we call church.

So, are you a leader, or are you a leaver? Can you bring just one person back who has decided to leave? Many people leave because they quest for unfound truth. If you, or anyone you know would like answers about your faith, a trip through the RCIA process may be for you. While the intent of this process is to bring people into the Catholic faith from other religions, to enable baptized Catholics to complete their sacraments of initiation of Eucharist and Confirmation, or to offer Trinitarian Baptism to those adults seeking that sacrament, people who are searching and perhaps rusty in the ways of their faith, are also invited to our Tuesday discussion groups, hopefully empowering you with the excitement and faith of the newly baptized adults at Easter. We meet most Tuesday nights at 7 PM in the little area known as the "cry area."

Are you hurt? Are you angry? Hurt people hurt (others). Don't be hurt, be healed, a healing that comes through prayer, discussion and knowledge. **This is a theological discussion group and not any kind of therapy or other similar group.** While we are open to answering questions based on our faith, there is a prescribed order of topics that we usually cover. If you are interested, please contact me at: RCIA@stjudeparish.org

In our perpetual quest for peace and love,
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