



Hello RCIA Candidate,

Welcome to the beginning of a new journey in your life, a journey of discovery of the Catholic faith. First of all, let us tell you how inspiring it is to have you come here to learn more about a faith that we love so much. We will use that inspiration to help us do the best job we can in making sure you always feel welcome while you are gaining the knowledge that you have been called to seek.

We would like to share with you a statement from Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston, regarding the RCIA process in the church. This is part of his message: "In his weekly general audiences in 2006 and 2007, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the lives of the apostles. In doing so, the Pope painted a picture of the apostles who were very much human and also very much searching for a deeper connection with God. Each one had to leave behind what was known in their lives and embark on a new journey with Jesus. This journey involved taking risks, trusting God, and being open to change and conversion. When the journey was over, this ragtag group of individuals had become a true community of faith, hope and charity. The Church was born."

This part of his statement stuck out for us as a summary of what the RCIA process is. You can almost say that the apostles started the first RCIA program for us and laid the groundwork for what we have in place today. Does your journey sound like the apostles'; taking risks, trusting God, and being open to change and conversion? We bet it does, and we hope you will find that this church of faith, hope, and charity is one that you feel at home with.

One of the first things we would like you to think about is who you would like to help you along this journey. Someone that is willing to sponsor you along the way, hold your hand, and be there when you have questions. The sponsor should be a practicing Catholic and should be willing to attend as many of the classes with you that they can. It is an honor to be considered for this role and if you are having a hard time finding the right fit, we can always help find someone for you, just let us know.

Jesus entrusted his apostles with the mission of continuing his presence on earth. Within the Church, life is no longer a solitary search for meaning, but rather a JOURNEY with companions in the faith. So again, welcome to the beginning of a new journey in your life. We are so excited, and we can't wait to get to know each of you and the stories that brought you here. Classes will begin on Monday, September 16, 2019 with dinner and fellowship from 5:30-6:00 p.m. and then class until approximately 7:00 p.m. in Room 1 of the parish center. Until then, if you have any questions leading up to the start of the meetings, please contact me through the church office at 912-897-5156 or by email at [thynes@spacsav.net](mailto:thynes@spacsav.net).

In Christ,

*Sr. Terentia Hynes, MFIC*