
THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

June 10, 2007

Dear Parishioners,

Our newly received and baptized Catholics (Easter Vigil, April 9th) have begun meeting in a post Easter reflection on their experience as new Catholics. At the same time twenty adults have already begun meeting to find out about becoming Catholic. The full RCIA team and sessions begin in the fall, but interested folks are already lining up. It's interesting to hear from experienced catechists around the country as to what draws people to the Catholic Church.

Would-be Catholics are drawn for many different reasons, with the most commonly cited factor being the influence of a Catholic spouse. Other times the effect of traumatic episodes make people reassess their lives, while others are attracted by the community of parish life. Some are simply searching for something they cannot yet identify or articulate. Joining the RCIA is unlikely to be the first time inquirers have come to church. Anecdotal evidence suggests people who have reached the stage of serious inquiry have already been coming to church for an average of five years.

A good question to ask when people first come is, "How did you find us?" One person came along to hear a friend singing in the choir and was "catechized" through the music. Others say they simply felt "comfortable" or "at home" when they attended church for the first time. One man felt drawn to the Catholic Church through his work as a mortician, impressed by the Church's response to death. One young man said he found us in the Yellow Pages. He decided the Catholic faith was the one for him and he just looked for the nearest church. A woman from Asia asked a priest "who is this God you keep talking about?" One parish welcomed an eight-five year old to baptism this year. She started coming to church for morning coffee, got to know Catholics and became interested in being one herself.

In today's bulletin flap we have some of our newly received Catholics describe what the RCIA experience was like for them. If you or someone you know is interested in looking into the process of becoming a Catholic, this summer might be an excellent time to inquire. Just call Al Garrotto our RCIA Director at 252-1008

Your Pastor,
Brian T. Joyce

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY

- The Feast of Corpus Christi
- The Second Collection for Catholic Communication/Social Concerns

TUESDAY

- College Park High School Baccalaureate, 4 pm
- Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, following 8 am Mass
- Staff Meeting, Parish House, 11:00 am
- Pleasant Hill Ministers' Dinner, Parish House, 5:00 p,
- Rosary and Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, CVMtg. Rm., 7:00 pm, Contact Andy @ 229-3038
- Spanish Prayer Group, Church Vestibule Meeting Room, 7:30 pm
- Knights of Columbus, Chapel, 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

- Staff Away
- St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7 pm
- Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Ln.), 7:30 pm
- Weekly Charismatic Prayer Meeting, 6 St. Lawrence Ct., 7:30 pm (for info call 932-0395)

THURSDAY

- Centering Prayer, Ministry Center (Library), 10:00 am
- RCIA, Inquiry Series, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7 pm

FRIDAY

- 55 Plus Monthly TGIF Dinner, Chevy's (630 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill) 6:00 pm dinner

SATURDAY

- Men's Fellowship Group, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 am, Contact John at 372-7873
- Secular Franciscans, Ministry Center (Dining Room), 9am - 12 noon

SUNDAY

- Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

55 Plus monthly TGIF Dinner, Friday, June 15th at Chevy's, located at 630 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill. Dinner at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. RSVP to Renie at 925-933-4073 or Joyce at 925-939-1007

A Tour to Egypt and the Nile will be hosted by Fr. Aidan McAleenan from September 12-23, 2007. For more info please go to the www.ctkph.org.

Be Careful, Don't Worry, Be Happy! So we all can relax, be sure to leave no valuables in your parked car during Mass. We had one break-in during the 10:45 Mass several weeks ago; police report that this has been a problem during services at other local churches. Don't leave valuables in your car and certainly no in sight . . . so we can all relax.

Married Couples: "Heal our wounds our strength renew, on our dryness pour your dew". Let the Holy Spirit heal and renew your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is June 22-24 in Pleasanton. For more information, call Mike and Jeanne Emry at 925-672-2016 or Joe and Sue Talarico at 925-680-7767 now or go to <http://oakland.lovemoredeeply.org>.

Thank you for all the prayers, love, support, cards, plants and flowers. I am sure George is in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace always from the Arata and Phillips Families.

Ministry to traveling Catholics – For nationwide Mass times and locations: Internet www.Masstimes.org.

SONFORCE Vacation Bible Camp

June 18-22, 2007

During the week of Camp, an important mission is our outreach to others. Our Command Center will be providing "space capsules" to fill with items to be "transported" to the Monument Crisis Center and Stand Against Domestic Violence (STAND), both located in Concord. We want to fill our space capsules with the following *NEW items*:

1. Stuffed animals
2. Children's socks
3. Fun toys for *individual* children

If you chose to accept your mission to join us, we would be happy to accept any of the above items in the R.E. Office by June 21st.

Again, we are really in need of the following items for "loan" to us: tricycles, large sports helmets, bouncy balls (or hopping balls), wagons, stick ponies and foam balls. Remember to put your names on the item so we can return them after Camp. We will need these items by June 10th.

Vacation Bible Camp still needs 5.4 ounce potato chip (Pringles) cans with lids, small silver pompoms, silver chenille wires (pipe cleaners), empty breath mint tins with lids such as Altoids and marker pen sets. These items are needed by June 10th.

One Finale Reminder for ALL adult VBC workers: We will be meeting in the Parish Hall on Monday, June 11th, at 7:00 PM.

**Newly Received Catholics
Describe RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation
Of Adults) in Their Own Words**

Going through the RCIA program was such an amazing experience. The anticipation of being baptized and confirmed was an overwhelming feeling. On the night of my baptism, when all of the “excitement” was over, I had a feeling of sadness, like nothing in my life would ever measure up to that moment. That feeling quickly dissipated when I went to Mass the following week. Being a fully participating Catholic gives me such a fire inside, and every weekend when I rise and take communion, I feel renewed and blessed by God. I can’t wait to involve myself further in the Church. I thank all of the RCIA members for teaching me what it means to be Catholic and for preparing me to live a life that exemplifies these beliefs.

~ **Natalie Perdue**

RCIA was a great experience. I loved meeting other people on the same path and with the feeling that they had the same questions and needs that I did. I feel close to many of them. I learned a lot about Catholicism and it has led me to learn more on my own. Thank you.

~ **Karen McSweeney**

I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer on June 14, 2006. I started RCIA that September right after my second chemotherapy treatment. With all the emotions that were going on within me, RCIA taught me to become spiritually calm and peaceful which helped me carry on to full recovery. Not only did the guidance through Catholicism keep me strong but the people I met gave me a backbone to keep standing tall and keep my head up. Every week I looked forward to seeing the group and with their support, they showed me a new beginning to life. Thank you RCIA.

~ **Linda Woodrow-Gray**

My RCIA experience at CTK has been amazing. Not only did I learn so much about what it means to be a Catholic, I have also made friends along the way and become a member of a very supportive community of faith.

~ **Megan DeBerry**

Sitting in the room, surrounded by people with the same zeal and background, I found it easy to identify and share experiences. I learned so much from my fellow RCIA members and as time went by we became an extended family. RCIA became a place where I could relax after a hard week, where I could let go of my worries and get closer to God. I felt that God was really present with all of us. I received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist on Easter. It was sacred to me and the most beautiful experience I’d ever gone through in my life.

~ **Karen Trinh**