

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE RCIA PROGRAM

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

There is no charge for the program. A member of the parish will contact you. You are under no obligation to join the program.

newly planted in the faith. The Easter Season extends over fifty days. On each of Easter's eight Sundays, the Neophytes remain with the community during the entire Mass. They may continue to reflect on what it means to gather around the Lord's Table and to live the ministerial life of Jesus. The fiftieth day of Easter, Pentecost Sunday, formally ends the time of initiation.



THE RITE  
OF  
CHRISTIAN  
INITIATION  
OF ADULTS

RCIA



CONTACT:

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish  
Office  
905-853-5009

or

hand the attached  
request for  
information form  
completed as  
indicated, to one of  
the ushers or to the  
Parish Office

## HOW DOES ONE BECOME CATHOLIC?

In welcoming new members, the church's primary concern is to help people express God's love and forgiveness in their own lives. The question, "How do I become a Catholic?" asked in a deeper way is, "How do I become a more loving person?" For Catholics the path of loving is built on the Gospel. We study about our faith. We are an active part of a community. We worship together with grateful hearts. And we reach out in love to serve those in need. The process of becoming a member of the Church encompasses the actual practice of the above four principles. The process is called THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS or simply RCIA. People are invited to become involved in RCIA at any time during the year.

## WHAT ARE THE PHASES OF RCIA?

There are four phases. They are Inquirer, Catechumen, Elect and Neophyte. The Inquirer is anyone who simply wishes to question and learn about the Catholic Faith. The Catechumen is a member in formation. The Elect is someone in final preparation. And the Neophyte is a newly initiated, full member of the church. A person can drop out or

remain as long as he/she wishes in any phase. The emphasis is on the individual's relationship with God.

## WHAT IS INVOLVED IN EACH PHASE?

Inquiry is a time of getting acquainted with the Catholic Church and St. Basil's community. At each Tuesday evening gathering, participants have the opportunity to learn about the basic teachings of the Church concerning God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Bible, prayer, morality, etc.

The Inquirer may decide, in consultation with a member of the RCIA TEAM, to move on to become a Catechumen. It is important to remember that at any time the individual may decide to drop out of the process, or to postpone moving to the next phase. A Church ceremony, THE RITE OF ACCEPTANCE, indicates a commitment to follow Jesus and signifies the first step in becoming a member of our faith community. The name Catechumen has an ancient history in the Church, and designates one who is dedicated in the prayer and study of Scripture.

The Catechumens will then gather each Sunday with the Church community for worship (Mass). Following the homily, the Catechumens are called forward, blessed, and dismissed. They leave the

Mass at this point to continue their study, reflection, and sharing of the Sunday Gospel. As a Catechumen evidences a deeper relationship with God and the service of others, the Church will extend an invitation to fuller membership and ministry. This invitation is formally given once a year by the bishop. On the first Sunday of Lent those Catechumens, so designated by the parish, gather with the community. The former Catechumens are then called the Elect.

The six weeks of Lent are a special time of preparation for the Elect. They continue their Sunday and Tuesday gatherings. However, their prayer and reflection turn to an interior readying of themselves for Baptism/Confirmation and Eucharist during the Easter Triduum. The Easter Triduum begins on Holy Thursday evening and closes with the sunset of Easter Sunday. Baptism/Confirmation and Eucharist during the Easter Vigil, seal and celebrate the Elect's full initiation into the Catholic Church. Having passed over into the priestly ministry of God's people, they receive the name of Neophyte, one who is