

A Pastor's Perspective

August 15, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

How would you respond if someone asked you, “How does someone become Catholic?” Perhaps you could answer, “Either they are born or they are made.”

Most of us were born into a Catholic family that nurtured the seeds of faith that we first received in the sacrament of baptism. We were further conformed to Jesus Christ through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of confirmation. Then through our regular reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and Penance, the Lord feeds and forgives us as we journey towards the fullness of life.

However, other individuals come to the Catholic Church from various backgrounds. Some were brought up in another Christian community (Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, Evangelical, etc.), and now they feel called to embrace the fullness of faith and communion in the Church that the Lord Jesus himself entrusted to St. Peter and the apostles (and their successors). Other people of good will have no particular faith affiliation, yet they have come to the realization that God is inviting them to a relationship that will reveal the full purpose and ultimate meaning of their lives.

Do you recognize yourself in any of these scenarios? Do you know someone who has been seeking and searching for “something more?” Perhaps a family member or friend has said, “I want what you have in your relationship with the Lord and the Church. I want to receive the Eucharist.” Maybe a coworker or classmate has asked you, “How do I go about becoming a Catholic?”

Beginning Wednesday, September 22, our parish will once again welcome inquirers to the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (RCIA) sessions. This process of “conversion” is nearly as ancient as the Church itself. For those who are convinced that God is calling them to full communion in the Catholic Church, the RCIA prepares you to receive the initiation sacraments. For those who are searching for answers to their questions, the RCIA sets the stage for a divine dialogue about truth, love, forgiveness, and redemption.

If you or someone you know is ready to step out in faith in response to God’s call, please contact Mr. Matthew Valles, Seminarian Intern and RCIA Coordinator. Matthew can be reached via email at matthew.valles@portlanddiocese.org or by phone at 217-6740.

“Dad, where do Catholics come from?” Whether born or made, it is always by the grace of God, who says, “My grace is sufficient for you” (*cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9*).

*Peace and blessings,
Msgr. Andrew*