

RCIA Parish Talk

One way to encourage the congregation to really get involved in the work of the RCIA is to give a brief talk at the parish Masses prior to the start date. Even throughout the year a brief exhortation to ask the parish for prayer and also to share some ideas for evangelization can really assist in emphasizing that the work of catechesis and evangelization really belongs to us all. Each RCIA coordinator of course will want to work out such a plan of action together with the pastor, who is the chief teacher of the Faith in each parish.

Below is an outline of a brief talk done at a parish in the diocese:
(Just an idea – one need not copy this verbatim !)

Good morning,

My name is, I am the RCIA coordinator for our parish... I am here today to briefly talk about the RCIA, and to ask you to invite anyone you know who is not Catholic to come and learn about the Faith.

By way of background (*brief bio.*) I am a Greek-American from Zimbabwe, Africa and a former Greek Orthodox. By the grace of God Our Lord drew me to the Church 8 ½ yrs ago at the age of 21, mostly through the holiness I witnessed in many Catholics in Africa where I grew up. I experienced this witness of holiness through the priests and nuns who cared for the sick and the suffering in Zimbabwe, but it was especially through the laymen I met who knew their faith and lived it, that I can truly say I am Catholic today.

Most of the work that I will be doing here....(parish) together with (*or at the direction of*) Fr....(*priest*) involves catechesis and evangelization. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the RCIA; RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – it is the principle means of the Church to bring adults who are not Catholic and Adult Catholics who have not fully received the sacraments into communion with Jesus through the Church. More importantly the RCIA is a process of conversion (a process of changing one's heart) and coming close to the heart of Our Lord.

When does RCIA meet ? Starting on Tuesday September 16, we will be meeting on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30p.m. at the Rectory. I have also made up a flyer (*show flyer*) which you may find helpful in inviting friends or relatives to come. It really is a painless way to evangelize and a wonderful way to build up the Kingdom of God.

Lastly, I would like to close with a question – where does this great work of evangelization begin?

It begins with prayer and growth in holiness. Therefore please pray. Pray for the RCIA. Pray for the candidates and those who are seeking for God in their lives. Also please pray for us – pray for those of us who teach, and pray for your own Catholic brothers and sisters here in this parish; that together we may give witness to Christ in our lives, and through the prayers of our Lady, we may bring many souls to Christ, for the greater glory of God.

(Thank You)