

## RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Over the past year, as we continue to unfold the RCIA as a year-round process, I continue to interview Inquirers and hold Inquiry Classes as needed.

We averaged about three Rites of Acceptance and Rites of Welcome a year. Following these Rites catechumens and candidates are dismissed at Mass on a regular basis throughout the year where they continue to break open the Word of God and discuss the meaning of the scriptures under the guidance of an RCIA Team Member and myself. They attend Catechumenate Sessions every Sunday evening from September through June.

In May and November of 2007 and March of 2008, we received a total of Twenty Four candidates into full communion through the Profession of Faith, Confirmation and the Eucharist. At the Easter Vigil thirteen catechumens received the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This was followed by a reception for all those who received the Sacraments this year through the RCIA process.

During the year inquirers, catechumens, candidates and past participants enjoyed the opportunity to take part in an Advent workshop, an Epiphany Party, a Lenten Retreat, the annual Reunion, and the Pentecost Picnic. They also participate and volunteer in many parish function throughout the year.

It is with much gratitude that I extend my thanks to the RCIA Team Members. Without their assistance the many things that we do to offer these participants a journey in their faith life would not be possible.

During the summer months we will continue with dismissal of catechumens and candidates at the 10:00 Mass. Interviews and planning for the coming year will take a major role as we continue to unfold the process of Christian Initiation.

It is amazing, when one stops to think, that God calls us at all stages of development. This year, our oldest participant was 67 and our youngest, 7.