

***A note from Vikki Zangara, member of last year's RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)***

Hello,

I am a new member of St Angela's Church. Last Easter I was confirmed as a member of the Catholic faith. I want to share my RCIA experience as an expression of gratitude to the members of our church - for your inspiration and your sincere welcome, and as a means of encouragement to non-members who may be considering becoming Catholic.

I was raised without religion or spirituality and I guess I would say I was surprised to hear the call of Jesus, well into my adulthood. Friends led me to an evangelical church where I was introduced to and became devoted to Jesus and His word, the Bible. I attended bible studies and church every Sunday morning. Meanwhile Jesus continued to call me further (or closer I should say), and I began to attend the evening mass at St Angela's. When I watched the faces of the people returning from communion, the love on their faces for their church and for the Body and Blood of Christ, I knew Jesus was calling me to the Eucharist.

I have been attending St Angela for about 10 years. I can't explain my hesitance to become a member except fear of commitment — of committing my time and my allegiance to a specific religion. I regret that now, but all in God's time... I started RCIA last September, with considerable doubts and fears.

The RCIA team was wonderful. Each team member was knowledgeable, warm and approachable; so much so, that I was able to voice my concerns very early on to a team member. She answered, "Come with an open heart and God will take care of the rest." And, He did. Thank you Isabel! I was helped and guided through the annulment process, which to my surprise, ended up being almost painless, much thanks to Father Greg. Throughout the process we were encouraged to participate in discussions and ask questions. We were able to meet and ask questions of several inspiring speakers about different aspects of the faith. We even took a field trip for a Thanksgiving dinner!

Through the Eucharist, Jesus has grown me in my faith. I had to give up nothing of my past religious experiences, and I gained so much.

Although I have many more questions and so much more to learn, I am joining the RCIA team. Not to teach, but to learn more and participate in the process. I learned much this last year about putting God on hold when I think He's asking me to do something. So, this time I plan to jump right in instead of delaying a decade.

If you are considering entering RCIA this year, I encourage you to do so. The team, in fact has already been praying for you. "Just come with an open heart and God will take care of the rest."

Sincerely,  
Vikki Zangara

***For more information about the RCIA process, contact Fr. Greg at 440-333-2133, frgreg@samparish.org.***