

## Welcome to Our Newest Members of the Catholic Faith!

The Easter Vigil is the climax of the RCIA process. It is the time when our Catechumens finally receive the sacraments of initiation, and our Candidates are fully received into the Catholic Church. On behalf of our neophytes, I would like to thank the Elizabeth Ann Seton community for your prayers and guidance. You have truly walked with them on their journey to new life in Christ!

Get to know a little more about our newest members:

### Newly Baptized:

#### **Jamie Davis**

Jamie is a student at the University of Cincinnati and will be graduating in June with a degree in Psychology. Her sponsor/godparent, John Sullivan, is also her fiancée. The two will marry this August. Jamie took the confirmation name Francis after St. Francis of Rome whose example as a wife and a mother will guide Jamie in the future. Jamie joined the RCIA because she had a desire to become Catholic before she married, to raise her future family in the Catholic faith, and to deepen her relationship with God. According to Jamie, “The RCIA has helped me tremendously to understand the Catholic faith...I feel so comfortable and at peace when I’m at church and I feel so loved and close with Christ.”

#### **Rebecca Encinias**

Rebecca and her husband Victor have one daughter, Victoria. She is a bus driver for the Milford School System where she met her sponsor/godmother Rose Wagner. Rebecca chose the confirmation name Rose after St. Rose of Lima. Not only was Rose (her sponsor) very influential in bringing her to the Catholic faith, but Rebecca feels a connection with Rose of Lima because of St. Rose’s Spanish heritage, and her love for the elderly. Rebecca joined the RCIA process to learn what the Catholic religion believes and teaches. According to her the RCIA “answered many of the questions I had, helped me learn more about faith, and introduced me to many great people.”

#### **Nick Owens**

Nick chose his grandmother Emma Smyth to be his sponsor/godmother because of the great influence that she had been in his life. Nick chose the confirmation name Joseph after St. Joseph of the Holy Family. The name Joseph is very dear to him as it was the name of his grandfather who has passed away. St. Joseph is also an example of a good father and husband. Nick joined to RCIA process because he always had a need for God in his life. He knew God had always been in his life, but he felt like he needed more. According to Nick the RCIA helped “in so many ways. Who I am as a person and how my outlook on life is. The way I look at other people and judge or not judge anymore.”

#### **Christopher Schrichten.**

Christopher’s sponsor is Seton parishioner and RCIA Team member Tony Wallace. Christopher kept his same name as his confirmation name as he felt St. Christopher is the

perfect saint to model his life after. Christopher joined the RCIA because of the example of his uncle and a deep desire to be baptized. The RCIA process has helped Chris by helping him to understand the Catholic faith better and leading him to become devoted to Scripture and attending mass.

Newly Received:

**Julie George**

Julie has been married to her husband Doug for 17 years. They have two children, Louis and Adam. Julie is self employed offering consulting staffing services in IT. Her sponsor is her sister Nancy Sheehy. Julie chose the confirmation name Margaret after St. Margaret of Clitherow. St. Margaret is an example for Julie as she was a convert who raised her children Catholic, and is the patron saint of business women. Julie joined the RCIA to gain a deeper understanding of the core of the Catholic faith and to convert to the Church and begin her journey as a Catholic. According to Julie, the RCIA “allowed me to openly discuss the Catholic teachings and doctrines in an adult format. It highlighted the biblical basis for beliefs, customs, and practices. It created some great friendships with fellow parishioners and the RCIA team.”

**Rolla Loving**

Rolla is a restaurant manager. His sponsor is parishioner and RCIA Team Member Ross Bozman. Rolla took the confirmation name Pontian after Pope St. Pontian. Pontian was an exiled martyr who was the first pope to step down from the position in order to allow the election of a new pope while he was in exile. God used a series of events to bring Rolla into the RCIA process. This decision was followed by a very difficult time in his life. The RCIA process, the Catholic faith, and the loving Seton community, has been his shining light through dark times.

*If you are interested in becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church please consider becoming part of the RCIA process. It is a process developed to help you deepen your relationship with God and uncover the depths of the Catholic faith.*

*If you are a parishioner, please consider becoming a part of the RCIA Team. It is the responsibility of the entire faith community to help initiate new members into the Catholic faith. Please prayerfully consider your role in the important ministry!*

To join the RCIA process or become a member of our RCIA Team please contact Sean Ater. 575-0111 / [Sean.Ater@fuse.net](mailto:Sean.Ater@fuse.net)

## A Neophyte's Notes

*The following letter was written by one of our parishioners received into full communion with the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil. He, along with other adults and children, were part of the RCIA process for many months.*



Hi! My name is Erik Jackson. I'm one of both the newest Catholics and newest SEAS parishioners as of this Easter Vigil. I'm writing to you all to tell you about my conversion experience through the R.C.I.A. (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

I became interested in the Catholic Church at an early age. I was quickly discouraged by both my family and friends to ever inquire about it. Even though I was told not to look into it, God still gave me the courage, guidance, and strength to do so.

Heading into my teen years, God decreased and the World increased. It wasn't until my senior year in high school when my interest came back to life. I met a young gentleman at my employer at the time. He was Catholic and he was the one who "evangelized" to me through the way he lived his life. That appealed to me highly! So from that point forward, the spark from my childhood was set ablaze!

It took me up to three times after high school of approaching both Ed Alten and Sean Ater to finally get the courage to go through with the R.C.I.A. What kept me away was all that family pressure not to go through with it. If you are going through the same situation that I was in, the best thing to do is to give that fear and anxiety that you are feeling to God! Turn to God and give it all to Him. Pray about it; HE WILL clear a path for you! He did for me! Just trust fully in Him!

I found the R.C.I.A. process to be both challenging and glorious! I never would have expected that I would become so close to God! Not only do I have his never ceasing love, but I have the support, prayers, and love of my fellow candidates, catechumens, R.C.I.A. Team members, and Fr. Cordier! I could never thank them enough. You all are a part of me! This is what you get through coming into the R.C.I.A.; You not only learn how to pray the rosary and know church history, you really come to know and love our Lord, Jesus Christ, the "Lamb who was slain for us!" You come to encounter Him in the Sacraments, and you will also learn that He has big plans in store for you!

If you are considering looking into the Catholic Church, even if the odds and pressures of the world are against it, I urge you to turn to God in prayer, trust, and come check out the R.C.I.A.! I'll guarantee you won't be sorry. The R.C.I.A. has been the greatest thing to ever happen to me! Thank you all for your prayers, support, and love! THANKS BE TO GOD!

God Bless,  
Erik Jackson

*If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church through the RCIA process please contact Sean Ater (575-0111 / [Sean.Ater@fuse.net](mailto:Sean.Ater@fuse.net)) You can start the RCIA process at any time!*

## A Neophyte's Notes



*The following letter was written by one of our parishioners received into full communion with the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil. She, along with other adults and children, were part of the RCIA process for many months*

My name is Kathy Leland and I am writing this to tell others of my experience in the RCIA program at SEAS. My journey started about 8 years ago when I met my husband Tom. I was a single mom with two children and struggling to get by. I was raised in a Southern Baptist church but had left due to my work schedule and my struggle with alcoholism. Our first four years was a great struggle for me. Now that I look back on it I know that God had planned it that way. I was at my second job when I met Tom. He would come into the store on Sundays after church and buy a newspaper. He had a glow about him that I was attracted to but at the time did not know what it was. I just knew that I had to get to know him. I had a lot of misconceptions about the Catholic Church but soon learned that Tom had a very close relationship with God. He would roll out of bed every morning to his knees and before his feet would touch the floor he would pray.

I was struggling really hard with the alcoholism and I remember when it finally occurred to me that Tom was praying for me! He had more hope for me than I had for myself. So I decided to check out the RCIA program that was available in our neighborhood. I went as far as I could go without becoming a Catholic at that time. It gave me a better understanding of the Church and also made my relationship with Tom stronger, but I was still missing something. I started going back to my home church and they accepted me with open arms. They told me that if I brought Tom he could become Baptist as well, but I knew better. We talked about it but his belief in the Catholic faith was too strong, (though he never told me that I would have to become Catholic). After getting sober and continuing in the Baptist church, Tom and I decided to get married and take the steps necessary to marry in the Catholic Church. I made it perfectly clear to him and Fr. Cordier that I was Baptist and I was not going to convert.

Fr. Cordier agreed to let my Baptist preacher be a part of the ceremony and that really put me at ease because "I was never going to be Catholic." I called my preacher and he agreed. The following Sunday I went to church and things were different. I noticed that the lady that I had sat next to every Sunday moved to a different seat. No one asked me to sing that week and no one talked to me after church like usual. This troubled me but I was so preoccupied with wedding stuff that I really didn't think much of it until my preacher called me the next week and stated that he could not be part of the ceremony because he was ill. He gave me the number to another preacher in the church. After leaving several messages with no return calls, though, I started freaking out. I called Fr. Cordier and he was willing to see me that day! I was SHOCKED! He did not put me off, he listened to me, prayed with me, read me scripture, and made me feel more at ease. He said all would be fine, that we would make it work. Then he told me about Dana the music director. I picked out the music for our wedding and she was so helpful. I remember calling about two weeks before the wedding. I think I changed the music about 5 times that day and she never lost her patience with me.

Then the day of the wedding came. There was this woman (I still don't even know her name) who walked up to me and told me that she was a member of the church and volunteered to help me with anything I needed. She was amazing! The wedding went off without a hitch thanks to her. She told everyone when to go down the aisle; she passed out the programs, and started the bubbles at the end of the ceremony. SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME OR MY HUSBAND! I hope she reads this because I don't think I ever said "Thank you."

While Tom and I were on our honeymoon I was sitting on the beach, watching my new husband play in the water and thinking about everything that had just happened to me. I decided that I wanted what Tom had. It finally "clicked" and I knew what I had to do. When we returned from our honeymoon, I called Fr. Cordier and told him that I needed to talk to someone and, again, he met with me that very same

day. I was so scared when I went to his office that evening! I told him that I wanted to become Catholic (blubbing the whole time). Again, Fr. Cordier read me scripture and prayed with me and told me about the RCIA.

That night I went home and told my husband. I thought he was going to fall over when I told him that I wanted to become Catholic. He told me he would have never in a million years expected this. That very next Sunday I was in the RCIA program. I met the most wonderful people in the RCIA; they opened their hearts, shared their faith journey with me, and kept me in a state of feeling blessed. I learned a lot in the RCIA process, I had a lot of fun, I have become stronger in my faith, and stronger in my marriage to Tom. Now that I am Catholic I want to tell everyone about all of God's wonderful blessings! I would have never imagined that I would feel so grateful to be apart of something so much bigger than me.

I received my first Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil and will never go back. I feel that this experience has made me a better person. It has made me into a more charitable and humble person. I would encourage anyone thinking about becoming Catholic to come be a part of the RCIA program here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. It has changed my life!

Sincerely and God bless,

Kathy Leland

*If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church through the RCIA process please contact Sean Ater (575-0111 / [Sean.Ater@fuse.net](mailto:Sean.Ater@fuse.net)) You can start the RCIA process at any time!*