****Beginning the  RCIA  Process

* **How do you know if or when its time to begin R.C.I.A.?**
There's no one perfect answer - each person has to discern the level of desire they feel, and what their schedule can handle.  As one progresses in the R.C.I.A., each phase calls for a deeper, and more intense commitment so it may be that one needs to go slower in one phase or another due to scheduling issues.  We do not put an expiration date on this process nor do we pre-set a date for Initiation or Profession of Faith.

**Below are some questions you might ask yourself regarding your readiness to begin R.C.I.A.:

Un-baptized**: Have you felt a stirring or sense of something special moving your life?  Have you wondered about the joy or peace you've witnessed in friends or family who practice their Christian faith?  Are you tired of the mixed information that well-meaning people give about who Jesus is, and you want to know for yourself?  Do you desire for yourself a life of mission, blessing, and joy?

**Baptized-only Catholic**: Have you felt a calling to begin living your faith more deeply?  Is the desire to really know your faith and have your life changed by it becoming more persistent?  Are you longing to experience the joy of the sacraments, Mass, and belonging to a Catholic community of faith?

**Baptized non-Catholic Christian**: Have you had an experience with the Catholic Church, either through a person or event that has touched you?  Are you interested in learning what Catholics believe and how they live out their faith in everyday life?  Are you attracted to Catholic worship or teaching and desire to become part of this Church?  Have you been attending Catholic Mass for some time, but just have never been invited to become Catholic?

**Next Step**:
After one has prayerfully (and thoughtfully) made the decision to study the Catholic way of life, an interview must be scheduled with the Director of Adult Education.   Most people, even if not knowing the word "R.C.I.A." enter the process because they feel God calling them to a deeper relationship, and have had some positive encounter with the Catholic Church and seek to know more.

Interviews appointments are scheduled with the Director of Faith Formation.  To make arrangements for an interview, please e-mail Rita Tarrab at rtarrab@stpolycarp.org or call 714/892-3158 and ask for the Director of Faith Formation.

**What is in the interview?**
The interview is required to determine the process and needs for any person approaching the Church for sacramental preparation, whether baptized or un-baptized.  This interview is a tool used to determine the sacramental needs of each individual, to explain the necessary process(es), and to provide an opportunity for the inquirer to ask questions.

In the interview, we will inquire into a person's baptismal status, religious background, complete marital status history, and any other significant issues that may have an effect on the person's sacramental preparation and process.  We realize that sometimes the questions will seem intrusive, or that the person will be embarrassed by their situation, but we are not here to judge or condemn anyone.  We rely on people to be completely truthful so that we can accurately determine what needs to occur for them so that there are no unpleasant surprises along the way.  All current/prior marriages, whether civil or by another church must be discussed at the interview.

**Please note**:
*We refrain from promising or setting a date in advance for Initiation or Profession of Faith*.  Each inquirer, baptized or non-baptized will complete the whole R.C.I.A. process according to their status, and individual readiness.

The un-baptized as well as the baptized, but uncatechized will have at least one full liturgical year or more in the Catechumenate (2nd phase) prior to preparing for the sacraments.

A baptized Christian (non-Catholic) well catechized and formed in the Catholic faith as well as integrated in the parish will move through the R.C.I.A phases according to their individual readiness and needs.