



The RCIA is a restoration of the ancient practice of initiation into the church. It is a process of discerning and ritualizing stages of conversion, leading to sacramental initiation through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist and empowering men and women for lives of service, charity, and justice as witnesses to the reign of God.

### ***Periods of the RCIA***

The periods of the RCIA and their accompanying transition celebrations are:

#### **The period of Inquiry** (*Beginning the Journey*)

*The rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and Welcome of Candidates*

#### **The period of the Catechumenate** (*Echoing God's Word*)

*The rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates*

#### **The period of Purification and Enlightenment** (*the Lenten Journey*)

#### **The celebration of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil!**

#### **The period of postbaptismal catechesis or Mystagogy** (*Living the Journey*)



**Franciscan Renewal Center**

Peace. Renewal. Good.

### ***JOURNEY IN FAITH*** is open to:

- Those who have not been baptized (catechumens)
- Christians baptized in other denominations who seek communion and confirmation in the Catholic Church (candidates)
- Those who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but who have not received religious instruction nor completed their initiation through the reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation

*It is not necessary to decide that you want to "become a Catholic" before participating in Journey in Faith. The initial period (Beginning the Journey/Inquiry) will help you discern this question as will the entire process.*

### ***Journey in Faith is not suitable for:***

Fully participating Catholics who "missed" the sacrament of confirmation or Catholics who have been fully initiated but who have "left the Church" or are inactive in the practice of their faith and are seeking return and/or renewal of their religious faith.

*(Note: The Franciscan Renewal Center offers many other programs that are appropriate in such cases.)*

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ALL ARE WELCOME

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# ***JOURNEY IN FAITH...***

## **THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS**



*The Conventual Church of*  
**OUR LADY of the ANGELS**  
*at the Franciscan Renewal Center*





# Journey in Faith at Our Lady of the Angels

## *What is the RCIA?*

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is not a program, but a sacramental formation process that prepares individuals and communities for living the Christian life with full initiation into the Catholic Faith. Conversion is at the heart of that way of life.

**Conversion** is a turning around, an about-face. In religious terms, conversion is the surrender of oneself to the all-loving God, who calls us to fullness of life.

The RCIA process recognizes that God is present and active throughout one's life. It helps people awaken and respond to the stirrings of God to a renewed life, a turning to a more authentic embrace of life, to conversion!



## *What can I expect?*

This process is divided into various periods that respect the individual's journey of faith. These periods of initiation formation are marked by community celebrations that serve as transitions or steps throughout the rite. These various periods are a process of formation to the Gospel.

*(Reference: The RCIA: Transforming the Church by Thomas H. Morris)*

## *Our Lady of the Angels and the Franciscans*

We are a Catholic community formed by Franciscan values, rooted in sacred Scripture, and united in worship through liturgical celebration and prayer.

**Journey in Faith** incorporates Franciscan values and the teachings of Vatican Council II throughout the process in its rites, liturgical celebrations and the methodology and content of teachings.

Emphasis is on the goodness and presence of God in our midst and on the relationship of the individual to God, to others and to the earth in response to God's grace.

## *You do not walk alone...*

The community of Our Lady of the Angels accompanies participants throughout **Journey in Faith**, particularly in the celebration of the rites.

Individuals from the community serve as sponsors to each of the catechumens and candidates, along with support from the Franciscan Friars and Journey in Faith/RCIA team

**Journey in Faith** incorporates the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in a process that begins formally in September of each year, celebrates the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil and continues through a period of integration until Pentecost.

**For more information, please call 480.948.7460**