



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

5323 East County Road 462

Wildwood, FL 34785

(352) 330-0220

The RCIA Process Catechumenate Period

"It is love, then, that you should strive for. Set your hearts on spiritual gifts, especially the gift of proclaiming God's message."

-1 Corinthians 14:1

Welcome to the "soul" of this Spirit-led process!

The Catechumenate Period is a time when we are led by the Holy Spirit as He moves to enrich our lives through the promises of faith, hope and love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The above Scripture passage from First Corinthians describes perfectly two of the most appealing aspects of this ministry:

First, the powerful bond that develops among the catechumens, candidates and members of the RCIA team by the time you reach the Catechumenate period. "It is love..." this is what naturally happens when people meet weekly in the name of the Lord. We grow in love and knowledge of God and of one another. And the bond that forms gives us strength as we explore Scripture and the depth of God's love for us.

Secondly, we must "set our hearts on spiritual gifts". Our goal is ultimate communion with our God, joining the angels, the saints, and all our brothers and sisters – the entire Mystical Body – through the sacraments, especially the Eucharistic meal. This is where the Paschal mystery of Jesus Christ unfolds before us weekly.

It's also important to note St. Paul's emphasis of "the gift of proclaiming God's message." This is what every baptized person is called to do, a call we must heed if we are to spread the Word to those who need to hear it. If indeed we are living our life according to the Word, all that we do flows from our desire to know, love and serve our Creator, and should occur as naturally as taking our next breath. The works that flow from the Word of God are a ministry to love and serve His sons and daughters. We learn of His salvation for us through Jesus' birth, life, suffering, death and rising! By proclaiming the Good News, we share in the mystery of Christ through our baptism and the renunciation of sin.

The Catechumenate period is relatively lengthy. You will attend Mass weekly, joining the assembled people of God by participating in the Liturgy of the Word. It is expected that by making yourself a part of the worshipping community, you will participate in parish events and become active in some ministry of service.

The Catechumenate team will follow specific guidelines as they strive to address the needs of those searching for a deeper relationship with God through the Catholic Church and our Christian community of believers. This experience will involve a gradual catechesis that will cover church doctrine, traditions, custom and practices as they are revealed through the Word of God

This is a time to turn to God in prayer, keeping your hopes focused on Him. It is also a time of witness, a time during which you will be called to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit by demonstrating a sincere love of neighbor.

The celebrations of the Word are arranged specifically for your benefit. After the Liturgy of the Word, you will be dismissed to explore the Word of God more deeply in preparation for the time when you will join us at the Lords' table.

Throughout it all, strengthened by God's grace, you will grow in faith through your active involvement in the process.

Since our lives as Christians represent an apostolic call, we must learn to work actively with others to build up the Church by spreading the Gospel and being true witnesses to Jesus Christ by professing our faith.

You will undergo many new and different experiences as you grow in love for God. "He has called you by name" and you have answered that call. All of us at St. Vincent de Paul Parish pray that you will continue to answer God's call with a "Yes", and that He will continue to bless you every day of your life!