

Fr. Martin's Reflection – August 28, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the last number of weeks, we have had a speaker from the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) speak to us about the new program beginning in September. Firstly, I would like to thank Nick, Linda, and Patty for their dedicated work and commitment to the RCIA program and to all who have benefited from their time.

The mission for all of us who are baptized is to bring Christ's message to all that we meet. For me, as a priest, it may be a little more obvious; by how I celebrate the sacraments, the content of my homilies, and how I meet and greet and interact with others. All are a means of witnessing to Christ. For the ordinary lay person, it may seem a little more difficult, but that shouldn't be the case. How each of us celebrate the sacraments matters.

Questions we need to ask ourselves:

- Do I have a prayer life? How often do I pray?
- How often would I attend the celebration of the Eucharist? What preparation do I give before I attend mass?
- If I live with a family, is there family prayer time? Could I encourage family prayer time?
- My circle of friends, are they faith based, do they encourage me in my faith, or do they challenge me and my beliefs?
- If a parent, especially a parent of children in Religious Education, do I know what they are learning, would I be able to answer any of their questions?
- Do I pray with my children? Do I help prepare them for the celebration of mass?
- If I am the parent of children who are Catholic and I am not, would I like to learn more of what they are learning? I too am Catholic but never received all my sacraments and I would like to, how do I do that?
- Because of how I live my life and my faith I have a friend who is interested, can I tell them about RCIA?

The above questions are meant to be thought provoking. Allowing us to realize that everything we say and do matters in the context of growing one's own faith and witnessing to the faith to others. A professor in seminary made this comment to us and it stuck with me, and I think about it often as I feel it is so true: **"Remember lads, you may be the only bible people will ever read. What you say and do as a priest will be scripture to many people, so write carefully."** We can replace priest with Christian and say: **'what we say and do as a Christian may be the only scripture people will ever read, so let us write carefully.'**

If you feel you have a very poor understanding of your faith, come, and have a chat with our RCIA team. If you were baptized but didn't receive all the sacraments, come, and have a chat with our RCIA team. If you are not Catholic and would like to become one, or have questions, come, and have a chat with our RCIA team.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Mt 28:19

Fr. Martin