

2013 RCIA – Don Hutchinson

This year I participated in the RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program here at St. David the King. I was baptized, confirmed and received the first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. I realize that most of you, if not all of you, here today are practicing Catholics, but there is also a chance that there are others present with a situation similar to mine. Possibly you might know someone in a similar situation. If I could take a few minutes of your time I would like to share my story with you.

I went to a Baptist church as a child, up until about the 8th grade. I met my future wife (Sharyn) when I was in high school. Sharyn is Catholic, so if I went to church during my teen years it was to a Catholic Mass. We got married in 1981 at St. Anthony's in Hightstown. We have attended St. David's since masses were held in the Maurice Hawk School cafeteria, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School Theater, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and now here in our beautiful church. We raised our three children in the Catholic faith. For nearly 40 years I felt attending mass and living a good clean life and treating others well was enough. After all this time however, I decided to participate in the RCIA program and become fully initiated into the Catholic faith.

There were several things that motivated me to do this after all this time. My wife, Sharyn, had mentioned the RCIA program a few times, but she never put any pressure on me to do it. I had often felt she would like for me to. The biggest reason I decided to join the RCIA program this year was that I wanted my three grown children and my new grandchild to see that I believe in the value of having a strong faith. I always thought that they felt I only went to church because of their mother. My reasons for starting this journey were maybe for other people, but along the way I changed. My faith strengthened, my relationship with God became closer and even my relationship with my wife became better. We always have had a great relationship, but this was one more thing we could share. I now start every day by reading the scriptures and I find Mass is more meaningful. Although I have watched others receive the Eucharist for many years, I underestimated how powerful that can be.

The atmosphere created by Nancy Bachman, Peter Okajima, all the Deacons and Father Tim was warm and welcoming. Everyone in our group felt comfortable sharing his thoughts, and this comfort created an environment where we were able to reflect on our faith. Information about the Catholic religion was presented, but it was during these times of reflection and discussion where I think my faith began to evolve. I would encourage anyone who thinks the RCIA program might be for them, or if you know someone who might be interested in the program to contact Peter Okajima. All the information is in the bulletin. Thank you for giving me a few minutes of your time.

Don Hutchinson

