


**The “New Evangelization”
What is it?**

Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:18-20, “*All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*”

So, we are to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are to bring Christ to the people and the people to Christ.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE RCIA PROCESS AT
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH,
PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN CORRIGAN AT:**

PH 815.538.6151

CELL 815.910.6068


E-MAIL: briancorriganhcdre@gmail.com

1010 JEFFERSON STREET
MENDOTA, IL. 61342



www.holycrossmendota.com/

**Rite of Christian Initiation
of Adults**


**The Parishes
of
Holy Cross Mendota
and
St.'s Peter & Paul
in
Peterstown**

RCIA

*A new year of RCIA instruction begins on
Sunday, September 16th*



*And will conclude at the Easter Vigil Mass
on Saturday, March 30th, 2013*

In the Church today a structure lost for over a thousand years is re-emerging—the *catechumenate*. It is re-emerging because the Church community today wants to do something our ancestors did: we want to give birth to new members. We want new Christians to be born again in the faith and life of a Spirit-filled community—a community getting a community. Because this task is a new one in terms of emphasis for a twentieth century Church, we have to look to the past, to another age when Christian people more clearly realized that they were a community of faith and life. Our model is the catechumenate. The third to fifth centuries are our treasure ground.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Giving birth to new members was fundamental to the Christian life of apostolic times. As soon as the first Christians became living communities, their main work was to give birth to other members and communities. The *Fathers of the Church* speak of early models of community life-sharing in several analogies:

- **Human birth**—The preacher of the good news plants the seed of God's work in the hearts of a community. The Christian community then embraces its sisters and brothers in a period of nourishing and cultivating faith and Christian life. The developmental stage results in mature faith and birth in baptism.
- **The march**—Like the Chosen People of old, the preacher of the gospel announces God's choice and call; the people go out into the desert to grow and mature until, in baptism, they enter the promised land.
- **The soldier/apprentice**—The staunch discipline of being Christian in the trenches of the persecutions led to frequent comparisons to soldiers of those called, who are taken aside for a period of time for maturing and developing before they are drawn into service in the rigors of Christian living.

As the Church emerged from persecution and became established and acceptable, it carried with it widely diverse practices of preparation for baptism

and membership. All the Church practices had this in common: that one who heard the call and accepted the good news became, for a notable period of time, a member of the community, in preparation for celebration of the sacraments. Every community had its catechumens—a part of the group still in formation—who were responding to the Lord. Catechists and sponsors facilitated this maturing and formation until the candidate was ready for baptism. The catechumenate structure was part of every "parish." The established Church quickly developed standards and procedures for the catechumens.



While there were specialized roles, the welcoming and initiating of new members was a primary work of the whole parish community.

The preceding is from the introduction to RCIA from the book, "RCIA: A Practical Approach to Christian Initiation" which we are now using. It was written by Rev. William Bauman from the Diocese of Kansas City—St. Joseph.

We use the Catholic Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church as our primary sources of reference