

R.C.I.A witness testimonials

Jason Luke 2013 class

My first emotion was fear! Fear of the unknown, then when I walked into the room my thoughts instantly changed to great HOPE! I felt like I had a great weight lifted off my shoulders when I saw all the warm, friendly faces eager to greet me.

I had talked about learning more about Jesus and what Faith means to me, so that day I took the small step through the door and turned my words into actions and took a big step in the right direction, towards God rather than getting further and further away from him.

As a man of 36 who has been around the block a few times and experienced many different cultures/religions, lived through good and bad times like a lot of us, I couldn't see the R.C.I.A. teaching anything I was not already aware. How wrong could I have been! The journey looked long and painful. This also was not true. Actually, I miss Wednesday evenings and often find myself thinking about the great discussions and demonstrations. As a lover of geography and history, meeting people who had visited the Holy land or others who had dedicated their entire lives to Christ was addicting! I wanted to know more and more about the Catholic Church.

Often, I would receive cards in the mail from people in the church who were praying for me, people who were thinking about me and my great journey. They soon came to be friends, not strangers as I once called them. They are now friends and they really cared about me. I had not felt that in years!

I would say to anyone thinking of taking the R.C.I.A. classes (whatever your reason) you will have good and bad days like we all do, but for me the classes were something to look forward to, very much like Sunday Mass. Some weeks you will think, "oh, what's the point in going"? Then when you get there and all your friends are waiting for you and there's cookies and Father or Deacon are waiting to answer all those questions you thought were silly all those years, then it all makes sense. The feeling you had when you were deciding to go that evening quickly disappeared! To me, that's the power of faith showing it's true strength by dragging you out of your armchair and pushing you. To sum up on my R.C.I.A journey then, I know now why I came to the classes and chose the Catholic Church. It's simple. I do have faith, I do love Jesus, I do love myself. But most of all, I do love life and thanks to God, I will love life for eternity.

Robert Lindner 2010 class

My name is Robert Lindner and 4 years ago I decided to go through the RCIA program. When my wife and I got married she tried getting me to go through RCIA but I didn't want to. After years of asking me, she finally gave up. At first, I wasn't sure what

prompted me to sign up to go through the program, but now I know it was a higher power.

I have always been part of a church all my life. My parents were religious and I was even baptized. After I was married, I would even go to church with my wife. I always felt funny when everyone would go up and receive communion while I sat back in the pew.

Well, after God spoke to me, I started the program. My first initial thought was, "*why does it take 9 months to learn how to be a catholic?*" Let me tell you, after the program was done, I still had many more questions and felt as if it should be longer. Funny how things change! My biggest regret was that I didn't do this sooner.

The RCIA program opened my eyes, heart and soul bigger than I could imagine. This program changed my life. It even changed my wife's life who was my sponsor.

Together, we both grew closer to the Lord as husband and wife, and also as parents.

The first time I was able to share in the Body and Blood of Christ, I felt like a little boy on Christmas day opening a present from Santa! I was so excited and felt this great happiness inside of me.

The RCIA process helped change not only my life, but my family's life. I think anyone that is thinking about becoming a Catholic should listen to their heart and do it. It can change your life.