

# OCIA

*An OCIA Inquiry session will be offered  
on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> in the St. Joseph  
Conference Room (after the 9:00 am Mass).*

## *The OCIA Journey at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church, New Freedom*

### ***What is the OCIA journey?***

OCIA is short for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is the process for unbaptized adults and adults of other Christian Churches to become members of the Catholic Church. The process includes prayer, reflection, and learning. OCIA sessions at St. John the Baptist Parish are held on Sunday Mornings after 9:00am Mass in the St. Elizabeth Room at our Main Church.

To search, to belong, to mature, to be nourished, to continue growing, to love and be loved: these and others are fundamental stirrings of the human heart. Our lives are lived in a manner of seeking satisfaction of these very deep hungers throughout the journey of life. OCIA is the experience of discovering that one's journey is caught up in the mystery of God's loving plan for all people. For adults who sense a desire to become members of the Catholic Church, OCIA is the prayerful manner in which the journey to Catholic Christianity unfolds.

### ***Have you ever asked yourself the following questions?***

- How is the Catholic Christian faith different from other Christian religions?
- Will being a member of the Catholic Church make a difference in my life?
- Will being a Catholic help me develop and strengthen my relationship with God?
- Will my participation in the Mass and the sacraments really enhance the fullness of life for me that is promised in the Scriptures and help me in my pilgrimage to heaven?

If you have asked yourself any of these questions, the OCIA process will help you answer them. Life is a journey on which a person is constantly learning, growing and changing. This process is a step in that journey and lays the groundwork; through information and experiences, in helping you decide if you want to be a member of the Catholic faith. The OCIA will provide you the opportunity to learn, ask questions, pray, and experience what is meant by being a Catholic Christian and entering into a relationship with God and the Catholic community.

### ***Who can be part of the OCIA journey?***

- Someone who has never been baptized.
- Someone who has been baptized in another faith tradition, but who wishes to join the Catholic faith.
- A person who has been baptized a Catholic, but is not fully catechized, that is, not having received their first Holy Communion and/or the sacrament of Confirmation.

### ***How do I find out more about the OCIA journey?***

The Catholic Church is always ready to welcome those who wish to become part of our faith community. St. John the Baptist Parish makes a special effort to reach out to anyone interesting in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic. There is never any pressure of obligation to actually become Catholic. We enthusiastically welcome you to join us on our spiritual journey. If you have an interest or know of someone who may be interested in the Church, please e-mail our Parish/Religious Ed Office at [parish@sjbnf.org](mailto:parish@sjbnf.org), [reled@sjbnf.org](mailto:reled@sjbnf.org) or call 717-235-2156.

I THINK I MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE OCIA Program  
and/or, I know someone who may be interested.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete this information form and drop it in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.*