

Good Morning Everyone!

My name is Christy Reichle. My family and I have been attending Saint Thomas More "religiously" for about a year now. Don't get me wrong, we have always been "religious," but not as "faith-filled" as we are now.

We moved up here from Atlanta, GA about 3 years ago. Prior to this, we attended a Methodist church in Atlanta. When I say we, I basically mean, the kids and I...

When my husband, Dan was home, he always wanted to go to Mass at a Catholic Church. He travels for a living so he was hit or miss on Sundays. To be frank, I was always uncomfortable going to Mass. Incense, kneeling up and down and up and down; but to me, the biggest turn off was not being invited to celebrate in Communion.

I was a God fearing woman, studied two years of scripture (at our Methodist church) reading more than 80% of the Bible in the first year, raised until adulthood in the Baptist church. I don't know if you know about those Southern Baptist's, but they know their stuff when it comes to reciting scripture...

But, I was conflicted. Why? Why couldn't I, a professed baptized Christian join in Communion?

My Father-in-Law told me a while back, it is because of our beliefs of Communion. I had a sense of what he was saying, that Catholic belief in the Holy Eucharist is different ... but I didn't fully understand at that point. It wasn't until RCIA that I came to understand and believe.

It was believed in both the Baptist teaching, as well as the Methodist teaching, that it was important - *but* that it *symbolized* what Jesus was teaching his disciples to remember his sacrifice on the cross. I still had a ways to go, and remained a skeptic.

After my father-in-law had passed away, my Mother-In-Law Dorothy moved here to be near our family. She is a faithful Catholic, and I became more open.

Now, I had no "real excuse" to avoid the church. She would attend Masses with me if my hubby was working. So, I finally agreed to "try out" RCIA (and for those of

you who don't know what that stands for it's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.)
... Dorothy was my sponsor.

Participating in RCIA last year has been one of the greatest joys of my life.

I have truly been fulfilled with the grace of God, through His beloved Sacraments.
What a blessing in knowing that with Reconciliation, I have been able to find
assurance of God's mercy and inner peace for actions of my past.

And with Holy Communion - the True Body and Blood of Christ, I know Jesus is with
me -- helping to guide me to be the best version of myself.

So, if you or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the Catholic
faith, or just want to know more about Catholic Church, Join us at "Inquiry Night"
for RCIA on Sept. 10 at 7 pm. This is a no pressure event, not a commitment of
any sort, it is simply an informational study. Thank you.

Christy Reichle

Received into the Catholic Church 6-26-20

Witness given 9-05-20