

RCIA: Symbolon Lesson 1

The Journey of Faith

- Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless us tonight as we come together to grow in our knowledge and love for You. Open our hearts and our minds to understand the great love You have for us as You call us here tonight to learn more about You and how You call each of us into a relationship with You. Through this knowledge, help us grow in love for You and for each other.

*“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
For it was you who formed my inward parts,
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”*

- Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14

- Song: Enter the Journey (MI 657)

- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 26: Faith is man’s response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life.

- CCC 27: The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for...

“You have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”
- St . Augustine

- Questions for Discussion:

- How would you describe God? What image do you have of Him? What do we mean by the “Holy Trinity?”
- Tell us about a time when you knew God was present in your life.
- What is a “Creed” and why does the Church have one?
- What difference does it make that Christianity professes that God is Love? How does this affect our lives? Where have you seen Christians live out this love?
- What does faith mean to you? What challenge(s) does faith present to you?
- What questions do you have about God or the Catholic Church that you would like to have answered in RCIA?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading:** 22th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt. 16:21-27)

Jesus began to show his disciples
that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly
from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed and on the third day be raised.
Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him,
"God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."
He turned and said to Peter,
"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me.
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world
and forfeit his life?
Or what can one give in exchange for his life?
For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory,
and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

- **Closing Prayer:** Our Father...