

Column081119
Companions on the Journey

August 18, 2019

Dear Friends,

This week school gets underway for some and next week for even more of our parish young people. It used to be that Labor Day was the beginning of the end of summer but that is ancient history now. In other parts of the country school resumes in the beginning of August and ends the end of May. Seasons change. Traditions change. Realities change.

In our country the cycle of the School Year has become a very dominant part of the way each year unfolds. In late August or early September the school year begins anew. Parishes often follow a similar pattern in the way we function. Along with the school year. That includes our own parish instruction classes where we learn more about who Jesus is and what he did and what he accomplished.

Are you interested in learning more about your Catholic faith? Would you be interested in attending our instruction classes called the RCIA? The **R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults? Or perhaps your spouse is not a Catholic but may be interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. There may be someone at work who is interested. After many years my dental hygienist asked me about becoming a Catholic and went through the RCIA and became a Catholic a few years back. She is very faithful in the practice of her faith and says it is the best decision she ever made.

Sometimes people are just waiting to be asked. I believe no one is going to be offended if you ask them if they are interested perhaps in becoming a Catholic. They may actually be touched by your asking. It says that you value your faith enough, and them enough, that you want to share your faith with them. I am not talking about being rude or offensive about confronting people with a request for conversion. There is a gentle approach that can always be invoked. But we must renew our own devotion to the faith that sustains, to the Eucharistic presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And parents thank you for taking the responsibility to hand on the Catholic faith as seriously as you do by making sure your children attend and participate in our Children's Faith Formation (CFF) program. It makes all the difference in the world that they grow up knowing who Jesus is and what he was about. Let us here at the parish help you fulfill this most basic of your parental responsibilities.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry

