

Building Christian Community in Parish Life: CFM from RCIA

An Outline for Introducing CFM to RCIA Participants

-- Lauri Przybysz, Maryland

Although regular RCIA sessions are ending for the newly initiated (neophytes) soon after Easter, their faith journey continues throughout life. This final and on-going stage of Initiation, called *mystagogia*, the new members are meant to discover by experience the meaning of the sacraments they have received. Every Christian, whether baptized as an infant or joining through the RCIA, is called to “unpack” the *mysterious gift* of faith God has given them. Often, new church members get lost in the larger parish once their RCIA group disbands. Although we see each other at Sunday liturgy and at other parish activities, those who have experienced the RCIA miss the closeness they developed as they prepared for the sacraments. CFM is one way to continue to experience the benefits of Christian community, and also helps new Christians, and old ones too, put their faith into action.

- RCIA has been their first small faith community in our parish.
- They have had the pleasure of knowing others better and being known themselves.
- Throughout the process of initiation, people enjoyed the fellowship of other participants, sponsors, and parish team members.
- They have also been a witness to the community that faith is alive and well in their midst.

Now, they are invited to become more at home in the Catholic community.

They are invited to make new friends.

They are challenged to make a significant contribution to the parish community.

CFM is one good way to continue the small community experience after initiation.

- Tell your experience of being introduced to CFM, getting into a group/getting it started.
- Explain what CFM is.
- Describe OJA
- Announce a date and location for an exploratory meeting.
- One CFM family leads the new group for the first year.
- Use an appropriate program book.
 - *Evidence of Faith* or *Seasons of the Spirit* would be good. Some RCIA based groups would also benefit from *TTMD*.