



2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like **The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

The road to becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church is taken by many in our Diocese each year. We welcome the young and old through Baptism; unite them with Christ through the Eucharist; and strengthen them by the power of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

The journey to Discipleship begins with acceptance and commitment and ends with joyful hearts overflowing with Christ's love and grace.

A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

The Diocese is filled each year with grace and hope from individuals and families who are called to become Missionary Disciples.

- This year, 98 individuals became fully initiated in the Church and 25 received full Communion.
- From 2014 to 2018, 693 individuals became Catholic.
- Since 1998, more than 3,055 have joined the Church.

“Like the 12 apostles who were sent out by Christ, the newly initiated also have their own stories of inspiration and encouragement to share,” said Jeanne Thompson, coordinator of Christian Initiation.

At the annual Palm Sunday retreat a teenager *wanted* to share her story. It was one of courage and commitment and love of the Lord. She would climb out her bedroom window to attend Saturday evening Mass as her parents did not understand her deep desire to be Catholic and forbid her to go to Sunday Mass.

A veteran soldier shared that when he became a member of the Catholic Church, it filled him with courage and hope that his life in the military would be guided by Jesus through the Eucharist.

A woman battling breast and stomach cancer shared her story of faith. Her love of the Eucharist has not wavered as she has grown to trust in the will of God for her life.

*Your support today of the **RICIA** program makes you the ‘support team’ needed to help others on their journey to have a new (or renewed) relationship with Jesus Christ. If you know someone who wants to join our Catholic family of believers, take the first step by contacting Jeannie Thompson at jthompson@dioceseaj.org or 814-693-9605, Ext. 2672.*

Your gift can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; placed in your parish offertory; or made online at www.dioceseaj.org

