

A Letter from our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Are you searching for a deeper appreciation of the beliefs, richness, and joy of our Catholic faith? Do you want to discern the power of God's Word, God's presence in your life? Are you searching for links between the faith we profess on Sunday with the marketplace we live in Monday through Friday? Do you want to see your *work* – as parent, spouse, care giver, worker – as worship, as Liturgy, to be brought to the Altar as part – an important part – of the Offertory?

If you answered “Yes!”, *Why Catholic?* is the process that will help you answer these questions. *Why Catholic?* is a unique opportunity for our Parish Community to reclaim our Catholic identity, and make our faith not only more meaningful, but *alive!* I am extremely pleased that we will be participating in the *Why Catholic?* process; one that will take us on a *Journey through the Catholic Catechism*.

Why Catholic? promises to be a very powerful means of growth for each of us individually, and as a Parish Community. I support this process wholeheartedly and look forward to participating in the Small Christian Communities that will be at the heart of this Parish journey. I hope you will join me, my Staff, the Planning Team and the Small Group Community Leaders in the footsteps of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Father Joseph Davis

Contact Us

For more information or to see how you can become involved, call one of the *Why Catholic?* Planning Team at 973-584-8271

Deacon Anthony Signorelli, Chairman

Marta & Stephen Barkhausen

Terri Birrer

Dawn DeMartino

Tom Loughrey

Donna Rasmussen

EXPERIENCE CATHOLIC EVANGELIZATION AS PEOPLE CALLED TO



Community



Service



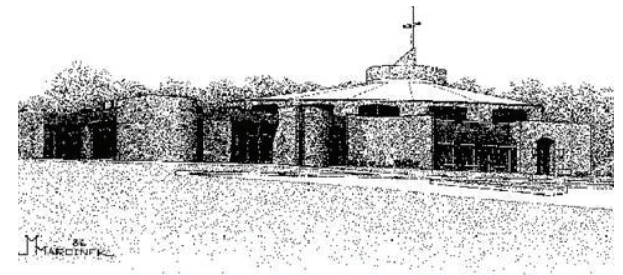
Worship

Deepen Your Catholic Faith And Connect its Teachings To Everyday Life

WHY CATHOLIC?
JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

- Are you searching for meaning and purpose?
- Do you have questions about your faith?
- Would you like to connect more with God?

THEN THIS IS FOR YOU!!



St. Therese Church

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What is *Why Catholic?*

Why Catholic? is a unique adult faith formation program that is solidly based on Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It is in response to our Bishop's invitation and recent pastoral letter.

Why Catholic? offers a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to their everyday lives.

Why Catholic? encourages learning in a prayerful small-community setting.

What are *Why Catholic?* themes?

The program involves four themed 12-lesson faith-sharing sessions, corresponding to the four sections found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. The 4 sessions are:

The Profession of Faith: What We Believe

Explore the basic tenets of our Catholic faith using what the *Catechism* calls "the oldest Roman Catechism," namely, the Apostles' Creed.

The Celebration of the Christian Mystery: Sacraments - See Liturgy as the source and nourishment of our life; enrich our weekly participation in Sunday Liturgy; and see the Sacraments as doors to the sacred.

Life in Christ: Walking With God - Explore the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as sources for moral wisdom and as blueprints for living the Christian life.

Christian Prayer: Deepening My Experience of God - Experience different prayer models, e.g., *Lectio Divina*, as ways to grow more deeply in our relationship with God.

Who can Benefit?

- Catholics who want to deepen their faith
- Parents who want to pass on their faith
- Catechists who want to enhance their faith
- Adult candidates and catechumens who want to learn the faith
- Parish organizations and staff who want to reflect on their faith

How can I be Involved?

Join or lead a small community.

You may sign-up to join a Group on **Sign-up Sunday** weekends after all Masses. Dates for **Sign-Up Sunday** will be posted in the Parish Bulletin weeks in advance.

If you choose to become a Small Community Leader you will receive training and assistance at every step of the process. Call the Rectory if you would like to facilitate a small faith sharing group.

At this time we plan on launching *Why Catholic?* during Lent. The first session, **The Profession of Faith: What We Believe**, will run for 6 weeks. Each group member will have the resources needed to help enable the 6-week process.

Review with your Family Weekly Bulletins entitled Renewing Family Faith

This unique resource uses stories, blessings, Scripture, activities and additional materials to help families explore the important teachings of our Catholic faith.



Attend the Parish Retreats and Enrichment Sessions

Every six months the parish will gather to deepen understanding of our Catholic identity through a faith enrichment presentation or a retreat experience. The parish retreats and enrichment sessions are given by staff members of RENEW International. Watch the Bulletin for details and dates.

Pray A Disciple's Prayer

We ask that you support this parish-wide evangelization effort by prayer. Below we have printed *A Disciple's Prayer*. As we approach our parish's *Why Catholic?* start-up, and as the process moves forward, we sincerely ask that you pray for its success.

A Disciple's Prayer

*Loving God and Father,
help us to be people of prayer,
committed to the person and message of
Jesus your Son.*

*Help us to grasp the integrity and beauty
of the truths of our faith and
the transforming power of your grace.*

*Nourish and strengthen us
as people of faith, disciples of Jesus,
committed to the mission of the Church
and eager to share the gospel without restraint.*

*Let our hearts burn within us
as we catch glimpses of your heart in Jesus,
for through him, we know your loving
plan for us.*

*We ask this through Jesus the Christ
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit
in one loving Trinity. Amen.*