

A Journey Through RCIA With the Bork Family

After contemplating the choice to become Catholic for many years, it was a Christmas Eve service at St. Brigid of Kildare that finally convinced Todd and Victoria Bork that they wanted to become Catholic.

After that Christmas Eve Mass, Todd and Victoria had a conversation with Paul Zemanek that finally drove the Bork family to begin their journey to Catholicism. "That incredible conversation really set the tone for being so comfortable at St. Brigid every step of the way. We have always had a strong faith in Christ; Catholicism provides the religion to match our faith," said Victoria.

Todd and Victoria Bork, along with their three children Tatum, Owen and Liza had been coming to church for many years with Todd's mother and father - Frank and Dana Bork. Frank had been a Catholic all his life and Dana, not Catholic, had been attending church with her husband for about 50 years.

Dana Bork also knew she wanted to become Catholic and decided she was ready to begin the RCIA process. A few years back Dana was visiting St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. "When I was at St. Peter's something came over me - it was right then that I knew I wanted to be a part of the Catholic Church," said Dana.

So in January of 2014, Todd, Victoria met with Paul Zemanek to discuss the RCIA process and began their commitment. Paul referred Victoria to Mary Fran Cassidy to discuss the options for enrolling their children in a religious education program. "Mary Fran was very accommodating to create a plan for our family. She figured out a way to allow our children to receive the Sacraments but also get them in classes with their peers. Next year they'll be in their peer groups and able to experience the full program. I've been amazed at the teachers and the program-all that I've learned and all that they have done for our family," says Victoria.

Since the three generations of the Bork family began the RCIA journey together they have enjoyed learning about the process with the other candidates they've met. Their favorite experience so far was when Deacon-candidates Paul Zemanek and Steve Petrill arranged for the class to participate after Mass to learn the Rosary. Their entire family plus another RCIA candidate participated. As Steve led the prayer, "he patiently answered all the questions from our youngest. The process explained the peace the prayers of the Rosary provides. It was truly a precious and an unforgettable family moment on this journey," says Victoria.

"As a non-Catholic, Paul Zemanek has really helped lead us through this process of becoming a Catholic. He is our leader but he is much more than that - he has been the best anchor, mentor and teacher to us all throughout this process," says Dana.

Dana will be receiving all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation) as a Catechumen at the Easter Vigil. Todd and Victoria will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. The children will also receive the Sacrament at Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil and will continue on in their religious education classes until they receive all of their Sacraments as they progress through their classes.



Bork Family: Frank and Dana (Todd's parents), Victoria and Todd, Liza and Tatum (front row), Owen (back row)