

## Our Journey Through RCIA

*“...it was the best decision we could have made for our family”*

My husband and I both came from families that did not put a lot of emphasis on religion. We realized that something was missing from our lives and our relationship. We felt that it was important for our daughter to have a religious upbringing.

Because our exposure to religion was limited, we weren't sure of what path to take. We did a lot of research, discussed our beliefs and concluded that Catholicism aligned most closely with our beliefs. We soon discovered that we had obstacles in our way. We had been married before and knew that we would need annulments.

My husband's father was a cradle Catholic. His health had been declining over several years but he passed away unexpectedly in June of 2014. During his decline, his Priest was a great comfort to him and to our family. Going through that experience made us realize that it was important for us to do what we could to become a part of the Catholic Church.

Prior to my father-in-law's passing, we had enrolled our daughter, Emily, in Kindergarten at St. Brigid. My husband also signed up for RCIA beginning that fall, which he completed in April of 2015 but because his annulment was not completed, he could not go through Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Our annulments were finally completed in November of 2015. My husband was Baptized and Confirmed in December of that year.

I started RCIA in October of 2015. The RCIA process was a great experience and I learned so much by attending class, going to the dismissals and participating in the scrutinies. Kim VanHuffel was a great support for our family during this time. I was Baptized and Confirmed at the Easter Vigil this year. Emily was also Baptized at the Easter Vigil. It was a great experience for us to share together. My husband and I also had our marriage Convalidated in April.

Even though our journey took a year and half to complete (because we went to different sessions), it was the best decision we could have made for our family. It is important for us to attend Mass weekly as a family, to incorporate prayer and the Catholic traditions into our daily life and ensure that Emily has a Catholic education. We are so much stronger now as a family and look forward to our future in the Catholic faith.



*The Kohler Family*

- The Kohlers-Dave, Jenni and Emily