

BE COURAGEOUS

Live the Gospel through the Annual Pastoral Appeal



COURAGEOUSLY LIVING THROUGH THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Giving hope to the future

In a special way, during the season of Lent we pray for those people who have chosen, of their own free will, to enter the Catholic Church at Easter. On Sunday, March 10th, the first Sunday of Lent, 355 Catechumens from 57 of our parishes throughout the Diocese of St. Petersburg were welcomed at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle by Bishop Gregory Parkes. These Elect, accompanied by their Godparents/Sponsors, Parish RCIA Leadership and Clergy, were chosen by God and have been affirmed by the Church and are ready to celebrate baptism, confirmation and Eucharist at the upcoming Easter Vigil, which is a truly spiritual and inspirational experience beneficial to the whole Catholic community.

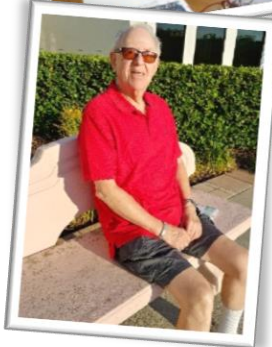
Your gift to the Annual Pastoral Appeal provides essential resources for the Office of Worship and Department of Evangelization, Formation, Youth and Family Life to educate, train and assist parish Catechists and Lay Leaders in the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA). This partnership of diocesan and parish ministries ensures each parish is equipped with informed and faithful representatives who proclaim the Gospel, provide a welcoming and invitational surrounding and together with the Elect, encounter Christ through a spiritual journey lead by the Holy Spirit.

As we draw closer to the celebration of Easter, please keep those joining the Catholic Faith from all parishes in your prayers.



"I know Jesus is in my heart! RCIA has taught me that if you believe in Him, even when you don't understand, you should be here. It has been such a fulfilling experience, I am working on inviting more people to join this journey."

Wei Wei Ritzhaupt – Our Lady of Grace Parish, Beverly Hills



"The Rite of Election confirmed to me that I'm on the right path. I am not alone. Everyone in the same place, coming together from all different backgrounds, I felt everyone there was where they wanted to be! Everything I have encountered has led me to be here."

Carlos Lara-Cuente – St. Timothy Parish, Lutz



EVERY GIFT IN FAITH
IS A GIFT OF
COURAGE

This publication is intended to share information about the Annual Pastoral Appeal and the ministries, programs and services it supports, made possible through your prayers and generosity. Together, **COURAGEOUSLY** *Living the Gospel*, we bring hope to the future!

