

Dear Padre,

Why is RCIA now called OCIA? And why do people have to go through that process anyway? Can't they just talk to the priest if they want to be Catholic?

The reason why Christian Initiation for Adults is now identified as the "Order" rather than the "Rite" is that the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) changed the name in November 2021. The name change more accurately reflects the English translations of the Latin texts and emphasizes the ongoing development of participants in the faith. Within the Order are different rites, such as the Rite of Entrance to the Catechumenate, the Rite of Sending, the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, and the Rites of Initiation.

Although it is still possible to become a baptized Catholic or a confirmed Catholic after a simple conversation with a priest or a catechist, the preferred way is the communal encounter. The Christian community plays an important role in calling us to faith, enabling our practice of the faith, and helping us persevere in our baptismal call to faith. We are not alone; we are part of the people of God. We are the community that is called into life by the Spirit of God and that is nourished by the Eucharist we share and the sacraments we celebrate. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



NANCY WIEGEL / ONE



ANNA NASS / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In Gaza...children, families, and elderly are reduced to starvation. In Myanmar, new hostilities have cut short innocent young lives. Finally, war-torn Ukraine awaits negotiations for a just and lasting peace.... We implore [Our Lady's] intercession for the gift of peace, for support and comfort for those who suffer.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 18, 2025

Monday

September 8
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mi 5:1-4a or
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or
1:18-23

Tuesday

September 9
St. Peter Claver, Priest
Col 2:6-15
Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday

September 10
Weekday
Col 3:1-11
Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

September 11
Weekday
Col 3:12-17
Lk 6:27-38

Friday

September 12
Weekday
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14
Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

September 13
St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Tm 1:15-17
Lk 6:43-49

Sunday

September 14
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4b-9
Phil 2:6-11
Jn 3:13-17

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Wisdom 9:13-18b / Philemon 9-10, 12-17 / Luke 14:25-33



When Life Becomes Lose-Lose

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There is so often a cost to being a follower of Jesus, to doing the right thing. During our country's Civil War, southern plantation owners came face to face with the gospel's imperative to accept slaves as human beings who have the right to be free, though that would then bring about the collapse of the cotton economy. For them, it was live the gospel or save the economy. Sometimes, the gospel seems to put us in a lose-lose situation.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was confronted by the Vietnam War. By continuing a war he knew was unwinnable, it would cost human lives. If he ended the war, he would be labeled as the president who lost a war. For him, it was lose-lose. Do the right thing or save face. A person may be confronted by a job that demands unjust and immoral decisions when

the refusal to make such decisions would cost that person the job necessary to support his or her family. A student may be faced with the prospect of either cheating or receiving a poor grade. Living the gospel is fraught with costs.

Today, our nation faces the difficulties of immigration. On the one hand, there is the gospel's command to love the poor and so to accept immigrants seeking to escape violence and terror and drought, conditions that make it impossible to live. On the other hand, there is the need for our nation to deal with uncontrolled migration. The question of "What would Jesus do?" is never without consequences. ●

Reflect

How does following Jesus cost me in my life?