

Isaac Rushing

What led you to begin your journey through OCIA?

I was raised protestant (Baptist). I rejected that and pursued studying many other religious paths including pagan ideologies and eventually Atheism. I always felt drawn to the majesty of the Catholic Church, but rejected it because it was Christian. Years later I experienced near death. During that experience I felt a presence that made me feel overwhelming love, compassion, and understanding. And I received a message that said without words, I “Not Yet”. I knew it was Christ, and converted in my heart immediately. Seeking the church that Christ founded, all evidence pointed me to the Roman Catholic Church, I converted.

How has learning about the Catholic faith impacted your life?

Simply put, studying the teachings of the church confirmed in my mind what my heart was already telling me. That One, True Church founded by God incarnate was indeed, The Holy Catholic Church. Since then, my prayer life has been rich and spiritually fulfilling, and I look forward to growing in faith a little more every day.

What has been the most meaningful part of your OCIA experience?

Getting to know my new brothers and sisters in Christ. And also getting to hang out with Father Eustace. Our sponsors and education staff were all so kind and loving and friendly – it felt like a family gathering, truly. Which is what it means to be a part of Christ’s Family. Love, kindness, laughter, confusion, education, and growing together is our love for God.

What surprised you the most about the Catholic Church or OCIA process?

Honestly not much surprised me. Once I had decided through intensive research that the church Christ gave us was only found in the Catholic Church, I immersed myself in it for 6 years. I went to mass every Sunday (sometimes weekday Mass as I could), read the entire Bible and Catechism, learned and practiced traditional prayers, and just felt like it was home. So, no surprises except for the amazing feeling of love and peace when I was finally received fully through baptism and confirmation, the indescribable joy of finally receiving Our Lord in Eucharist. 10 out of 10. I highly recommend.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about exploring the Catholic faith through OCIA?

I highly recommend it. Even if you're only curious to learn about it (perhaps as a Protestant, Atheist, Agnostic, etc.). Certainly, if you're just discovered God's presence in your life. Knowledge is power, and knowledge of the Almighty is of immeasurable benefit for any who have ears to hear and eyes to see.