

Dear Padre,

My good friend is converting to Catholicism and learning things that I, a cradle Catholic, never knew. Why wasn't I taught these things? I'm embarrassed that a convert knows more than me.

Catholics receive most of their religious education as children. Even at the high school level, teachers are not able to explore religious topics with the same breadth and depth that occurs during the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) formerly known as RCIA. The Bible, for instance, is taught to children as stories, but adult faith requires us to read and understand Scripture as more than a story.

Adults learn differently from children; adults ask different questions. The facts and contents remain the same, but it's not possible for your early religious education to have the same content and depth as that of an adult who is converting to Catholicism.

Most Catholic parishes need a faith-formation program for adults who want to take their faith to a deeper level. If yours doesn't offer adult-education programs, many publishers offer programs that can be used for individual study. Let your own interest and curiosity be your guide.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Is your faith, is my faith tired? Do you want to reinvigorate it? Look for God's gaze: sit in adoration, allow yourself to be forgiven in confession, stand before the Crucified One. In short, let yourself be loved by him. This is the starting point of faith: letting oneself be loved...by he who is Father.

ANGELUS, OCTOBER 10, 2021

Calendar

Monday

JULY 25
St. James, Apostle
2 Cor 4:7-15
Mt 20:20-28

Tuesday

JULY 26
Sts. Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Jer 14:17-22
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday

JULY 27
Weekday
Jer 15:10, 16-21
Mt 13:44-46

Thursday

JULY 28
Weekday
Jer 18:1-6
Mt 13:47-53

Friday

JULY 29
Sts. Martha, Mary,
and Lazarus
Jer 26:1-9
Jn 11:19-27
or Lk 10:38-42

Saturday

JULY 30
Weekday
Jer 26:11-16, 24
Mt 14:1-12

Sunday

JULY 31
Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23
Col 3:1-5, 9-11
Lk 12:13-21

