

**BENEDICTION EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:30 p.m.**

**CURIOUS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?**



If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, becoming Catholic, or you want to strengthen your own faith, then R.C.I.A. is for you!

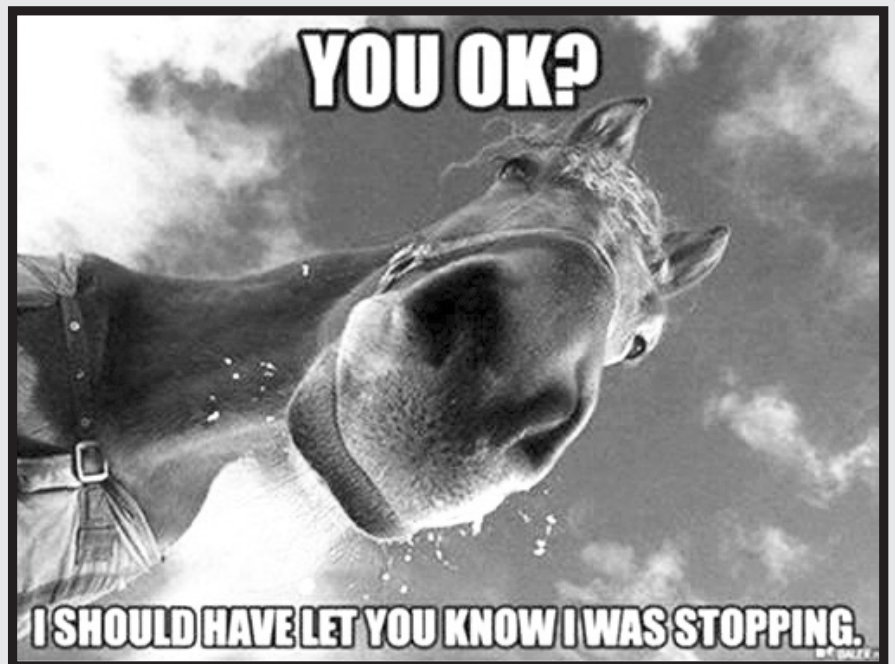
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) focuses on providing a comprehensive understanding of the Catholic faith. Preparation Classes for the R.C.I.A. start Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. All adults are welcome. The single Walnut Street door will be open and we will have "R.C.I.A." signs with arrows directing you to our meeting place. If you hear the Lord calling, please do not pass up this opportunity to answer Him.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Hehl at 937-364-6556 (Home), or 937-661-4835 (Cell) ...Joyce Combs at 937-764-2030 (Home), or 937-403-6708 (Cell).

**NEED HELP**



We desperately need volunteers for the food give-away next month that is being supported by Catholic Charities. The folks at the Greater Life Assembly are doing their Bible Vacation School and those folks will not be available to help give out the food. Volunteers are needed August 4 at the Greater Life Assembly Church, 12145 N. Shore Drive, Rocky Fork Lake. Volunteers should arrive at 9:30 a.m., so they can sign in. Food distribution is from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



## FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

In last week's sermon, I mentioned the movie "Ace Venture: Pet Detective." (In one of my eight Masses, I accidentally called it "Ace Ventura: Pet Cemetery"). I happened to look up the creator of that movie, a film maker called Tom Shadyac. He is good example of taking the teaching of Jesus about wealth to heart. Tom, who is 54, had a near death experience in 2007, when he suffered a severe concussion from a biking accident. His miraculous recovery opened for him a new way to look at life. "I was standing in the house that my culture had taught me was a measure of the good life. I was struck with one very clear, very strange feeling: I was no happier."

He saw the phoniness of Hollywood and the emptiness wealth can bring. Tom wrote, "The more I give away the wealthier I feel. For everything I 'gave up', so much more was returned." And give away he did. He gave away his vast fortune to charity, opened up a homeless shelter in Virginia, sold off his 17,000 square-foot mansion in Pasadena, California and moved into a 1,000-square-foot mobile home.

The fruit of Shadyac's spiritual journey culminated in his latest book "Life's Operating Manual." Tom said, "You've probably heard people say, 'Man, if only life came with an operating manual!' I'm telling you that it does!" He bases his manual on observing God's created world in nature,

"Our own economy tells us to take as much as we can get, right? Our own economy says, you're going to be the most successful graduate if you go into the business world and take as much you can get. That's not how nature works. Nature has a much simpler economy. Everything in nature takes only what it needs. That's it. You don't see an oak tree gathering up all the resources. An oak tree takes what it needs to be the authentic oak tree it needs to be. It's giving to everything else around it." Tom pointed out that there is a medical term when cells in our body take more than its share. We call it cancer. He sees the greatest cancer in our world to be people who live a cancerous life style where they have to take more and more of everything they can.

My operating manual for living is the Word of God. Jesus tells us today to be rich in what matters to God. What, then, matters to God? I'll share with you the wisdom of my 14 year old altar server from the Spanish Mass. Oscar expressed great interest in the story of Lucifer. I told him how Lucifer, aka Satan, was the number one angel but he wanted to be God, so he rebelled against God. The Archangel Michael defended God and kicked the evil angel Lucifer out of Heaven. Oscar's eyes lit up like he figured out something. He remarked, "I always wondered where Satan got all his power, but I know where he gets it. Every time we sin we give Satan his power because we chose him over God. Satan gets his power from us."

So the thing that matters most to God is...God. God wants you to choose God over everything else. God wants you to love Him with all your heart, mind and soul. What matters to God is that you let Him be God for you. Don't get obsessed with wanting more than you really need. You will not find happiness there. That's what Jesus is telling you today. I will close with an observation from the actor whom Tom Shadyac directed in the pet detective movie, Jim Carrey. "I hope everybody could get rich and will have everything they ever dreamed of, so they will know that it's not the answer."