

WHAT DOES A NEW CATHOLIC HAVE TO SAY?
Commentary from *former* RCIA Candidate Dawn Laake
Now BSNC (Brand Spankin' New Catholic) Dawn Laake

Before I knew it, RCIA was almost over... what a life experience!!! I look back on the past several months and see a myriad of milestones passed with the help of my RCIA brothers and sisters, and my husband. Many of you know my incredible journey, but with the patience of those that have heard it, I would like to share it with those with those that don't.

I have been blessed with cancer three times in my life. I chose that word because that is the most accurate description... I have been blessed every time this health challenge came into my life. This last episode was "end" 4th stage breast cancer. A pastor friend-of-the-family offered to convert me quickly due to my illness. While I appreciated the gracious offer, I didn't want to be confirmed via the "fast lane." The dream of working my way through the many questions I had became yet another reason to live.

I have always credited my sister Barbara for passing the Power and the Light my way. She converted about eight years ago and has taught many RCIA classes in Arizona. However, once I clearly looked around I found so many role models for me, driving my spiritual need for the Catholic vision: my husband, his siblings, his parents, and the many "family members" I found at St. Laurence. With their support, the RCIA staff, and the love, Light and Power of our Lord, I was able to find my way through the complicated health challenge I experienced.

My first communion was beautiful and moving; being the first time I experienced the Host in my life. Thank you all for seeing me through this trying time. I now know I can rise to meet any challenge in my life!

Dawn Laake
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