

## **RCIA Testimony**

My name is Liz Gober, and I completed the RCIA program last year. As for my background, I was raised in a Protestant home. My father had been raised Catholic but became non-practicing. I have always had a relationship with Jesus but had never made the decision to be baptized. I met my husband, Lou, who is Catholic, in 1996. The first mass I attended with his family was a Holy Saturday vigil where he was playing the trumpet. Talk about a long time to sit there feeling completely lost! My husband and I were married in the Catholic Church in 1999. We have raised our 3 daughters in the Church and I had been an observer in the pew for 20+ years. My husband had always encouraged, but never pushed me, to be baptized, even if I chose not to convert to Catholicism. I attended mass more regularly with my family and as my children began to receive their sacraments, I longed to be able to fully participate in mass with them and receive the Eucharist, even though I did not fully understand the depth of what that meant. I knew that I wanted to learn more about the church and its beliefs but was hesitant to make an appointment to meet with a priest on my own, even though I had a growing list of questions that I wanted answered. As I sat in the pew and listened to Vicky Kern talk about the RCIA class that would be beginning that fall, I knew this was the time to take the next step. RCIA afforded me the opportunity to get my questions and objections answered in a setting that was welcoming and one that I thoroughly came to enjoy attending. I never felt pressured in any way but was simply given the opportunity to take the next step. Since coming into the church last August, I have truly come to appreciate the importance of receiving the Eucharist and being part of the true Church, which Jesus began through the Apostles. I still have much to learn but I am truly glad I decided to just take the next step.