



Rite of Welcoming the Baptized

During the 9:00am Mass on October 21, 2007 our community welcomed 3 baptized Christians (called **candidates**) who are preparing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of **Eucharist and Confirmation**. It is important for us to remember that candidates are already one with us through their baptism in another Christian faith tradition. This ritual acknowledges their baptism and ongoing faith journey while at the same time welcoming them into the community as they prepare to be full participating members of the Catholic Church.

Nancy Desmond

Nancy was born in Western Canada, baptized Anglican as a baby, and raised in a Protestant family. Just before starting college, she had a deep “conversion” experience. Her family moved to Colorado and she chose to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Her interest in many kinds of spiritual experiences led her to earn a master’s degree in Religious Studies, writing her thesis on Christian and Islamic mysticism. While living in Philadelphia in the 90’s she had her first concentrated exposure to Catholicism and began to feel a strong pull towards it, which surprised her. When she moved to Seattle four years ago she assumed she would either go a new spiritual direction or become reconciled to Protestantism, since Seattle’s culture does not have the strong Catholic imprint that Philadelphia does. However, her need for a liturgical faith with ancient roots and a deep spirituality reasserted itself, and this summer it became clear that she was being led to join the Catholic Church. Nancy’s sponsor is Christina Masters.

Sharon Graves

Sharon is 61 years old, born in Seattle and grew up in the Magnolia neighborhood. When she was 12 years old she was invited to some revival meetings at a Southern Baptist Church. She became a Christian and was baptized at that time. Her father was a non-practicing Catholic; her mother a non-practicing Methodist. She was involved in the Baptist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God and other non-denominational churches all her life. After drifting out of the church for some years, a friend invited her to come to St. Mark with her. *“I want to join the Catholic Church because it is inspiring and fulfilling and I am drawn to the worship style, prayer, and scripture readings, and I believe that it is the church founded by Jesus Christ.”* Sharon’s sponsor is Dick Johnson.

Francesca LaPosta

Francesca was baptized Episcopalian but was not raised with any formal religious training. In 2003, her older brother joined the Catholic Church. The changes she saw in him as a result of his relationship with God inspired her to learn more. While attending Thomas More College in New Hampshire, she did an independent study of St. Augustine and spent a semester in Rome, Italy. Both experiences contributed to Francesca’s interest in becoming a Catholic. However, it wasn’t until the birth of her son this past year that she became determined to join the Catholic Church. Her sponsor is Wendy Jensen.