

**Church of the Little Flower Parish
Berkeley Heights, New Jersey**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)



Meet Our Newest Members

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)



**DORIS
JOW**

Hi, my name is Doris Jow. I was born in Manhattan on the Lower East Side and moved to Brooklyn when I was two years old. I am married and have one son. I have been a parishioner at Little Flower Parish for the past year. After seeing my son, Kevin, being baptized and confirmed last year, I got such a good feeling that I decided to join Little Flower.

Being a part of this parish gives me a feeling of being complete and able to enrich myself for what is in store for me with God. I am truly blessed to be part of this parish and for all the people who are helping me to become a Catholic. Thank you.



**ALEXANDRA
CHIRINOS**

My name is Alexandra Chirinos. I was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela and Rio De Janeiro, Brazil by an American Protestant mother and a Venezuelan Catholic father who were non-practicing Christians. I was sent to the United States for a better high school and college education thanks to my mother's parents encouragement, who were first generation immigrants from Italy and Hungary. You can say I am truly a "melting pot", a mix of beautiful cultures which I cherish every day, especially the cuisine.

The missing ingredient about having all this wonderful culture is that I did not have any spiritual influence in my life. Being raised in Venezuela and Brazil you would think I would be exposed to the Catholic religion which predominates and everywhere you walk you see its many beautiful churches. But it takes guidance and awareness to get you there!

Thanks to my grandmother she recommended that I go to an all girls Catholic school near her home in the United States. She probably saw that I was spiritually lost. So at seventeen I made a decision to be baptized and I was fortunate to select my godparents who I regarded as my second parents.

But I never took the next step to complete my spiritual voyage. For so long I heard a calling to go back, but just did not have the courage to do so. Finally, twenty plus years later, I made a decision. It was time to confront my fears and find my way home to the Church and its teachings – to learn, understand, question, challenge, walk in, and speak about the work of Jesus Christ.



**WILLIAM
ECHEVERRY**

My name is William Echeverry and I was born in Columbia, in Central America. I am one of eleven children – there are six boys and five girls. We were a very close family, poor but loving. When I was seventeen, I asked my mother if I had been baptized and she sadly answered no. But I wanted to become a Catholic like my friends and so I was baptized at seventeen years of age.

I came to this country in 1995 at the age of twenty five. The economy in my country was very bad and I wanted to seek the American Dream. For three years I lived in Elizabeth, and then moved to Berkeley Heights twelve years ago. I own my own business and work hard to be a good person and a good father. As a grown man, I felt the need to seek God when bad things happened and to thank Him for the good things I had.

One of my most precious gifts is my daughter, Ashley, who is nine years old. After she was born, I took her home to Columbia and again my God called me and she was baptized there. Unfortunately after I returned to the United States, I never followed through on my desire.

And so now I have come back home! I joined the RCIA program to receive my Confirmation and become a full member of the church. My daughter is now in the Religious Education program here at Little Flower and together we are learning more and more about our faith.

There are now three of my family members here and one sister, Maria Eugenia, will be my sponsor for Confirmation. Family is everything to me. I feel the most important thing is to be together and do things together. It is then I am the happiest and now I have a new family, the

family of Little Flower Parish here in Berkeley Heights.



**PEGGY
HOUSE**

Hi – my name is Peggy House, and my husband Chris and I have been residents of Berkeley Heights and members of Little Flower Parish for almost eight years. We have three children (Jason – 6, Reilly – 3, and Sean – 1), who keep us laughing. When I was younger, I was baptized and received my First Holy Communion in a neighboring town’s church.

As a typical pre-teen, I fought with my mother on a weekly basis about going to Sunday Mass. I perceived it to be boring, since none of my friends were there. Tired of arguing, my mother let me make my first adult decision of not going to church –one she regrets to this day – and I never made my Confirmation.

At the time of my wedding, I was working in New York City and taking night classes, but I promised the priest who married us that I would make my confirmation after the wedding. Until last year, I struggled with my faith and considered finding another church to join, but didn’t want to put my children in the same situation that I had been in growing up.

At last summer’s picnic, I met Father Andy and was inspired by his words and efforts to improve the parish. I realized that it doesn’t matter where you attend Mass, who is there or what the church looks like, as long as you are thankful to God for the family and the life He has given me. I am happy that Little Flower parish is now part of my family, and am excited to be making my Confirmation and strengthening my bond with God and the Church during Lent.

Doris will be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil. She will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist. Alexandra, William and Peggy are completing the Sacraments of Initiation - Confirmation for William and Peggy and Confirmation and First Eucharist for Alexandra.