

Can You Answer The Question, *Why Be Catholic?*

By Victoria Siedlecki

Why be Catholic? Hiding in this one simple question is a unique and beautiful journey that is incredibly personal and sacred to all of us and at the same time holds us all together in the body of Christ. St. Bart's welcomed Catholic speaker and missionary, Nic Davidson to share his unique and beautiful journey as a former Assemblies of God believer and now a Catholic convert. Nic shared his path to find truth and how he found it through the gifts of the Catholic church.

The three reasons Nic chooses to believe his faith every day are:

- 1.) The authority of the Church and the apostolic succession. Many times in faith conversations we hear the statement "Well, I think it's this or I believe it's that" when we should really challenge ourselves to ask whose authority am I following. Ask yourself "who says?" when studying your Catholic faith and you will find yourself in the loving arms of Jesus every time.
- 2.) Following the truths of Pope John Paul II and Theology of The Body. This was a Godsent game changer for Nic and his marriage. Pope John Paul II calls us to understand that, "The human body includes right from the beginning... the capacity of expressing love, that love in which the person becomes a gift- and by means of this gift- fulfills the meaning of his/her being and existence."
- 3.) The sacraments and the gift God gives us through those sacraments. During the consecration at Mass, the world, for only a moment, stops. We are transformed through time and are actively participating in the greatest gift God has given the world, the gift of his Son. These three reasons are foundational to what it means to be Catholic. With humor and touching examples, listeners of



RCIA participant Erin Shepperd with Bishop Andrew Cozzens at the recent Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion at the Basilica in Minneapolis.

Nic's presentation felt a call to strengthen our commitment to our faith.

Nic Davidson, a convert like myself, chose the faith as the foundation for all of life's purposes to rest upon. I pray that through this STUDY phase, we all recommit ourselves to the church and will be able to start answering the question, *Why be Catholic?*

Missed the evening? An audio version of Nic's 90-minute presentation can be found on our website, www.st-barts.org/ignite-your-faith-resources.

Lectio Divina: A Way to Pray and Study

By Graeme Braithwaite

Here is a way to both pray and study.

The **process** of *Lectio divina* is relatively simple:

1. Opening prayer to the Holy Spirit for wisdom, enlightenment, and guidance.
2. A Scripture reading of any length. This can be read silently if alone, or aloud with a group.
3. A period of reflective silence, meditation, prayer, and contemplation on the scripture reading.
4. Closing prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Different words, phrases, or stories may touch you in a variety of ways. Simply follow where the Spirit leads.

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