

Parishioner of the Month – September 2020

Lois Rozman



September is the month for registration to the RCIA program, which begins in October. So, what does that mean? Well, the acronym stands for **R**ight of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults. It is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective converts to Catholicism. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices, and Lois Rozman is the perfect example of the value of the RCIA program and is our September Parishioner of the Month!

Lois was born and raised in an Iowa agricultural community and in a very strong Lutheran family. They never missed Church and she attended Catechism five years straight. Her family had a close relationship and Lois felt so blessed to have parents that instilled this faith into their children. Setting an example for their future.

Lois came to Crested Butte at the age of 18, to be here just for the summer, but never left and decided to make this her home. There was no Lutheran Church in CB and the one in Gunnison would have been too hard to travel to at that time, so that was not an option. Therefore, Lois started to attend the UCC (United Church of Christ) Church. She tried teaching Sunday School, but quickly discovered that she had not inherited her Mother's talent for teaching and took on the role of Treasurer for several years. Lois would continue to attend the Lutheran Church when visiting her parents who had moved to Paonia, but she was no stranger to the Catholic Church either - her husband Rudy was born in Crested Butte and raised in St. Patrick's/Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, so she often attended Mass at Queen of All Saints with Rudy for approximately 30 years. She always felt welcomed; by Father Jim, Father Steve & Father Andres and really loved the structure. But, because of Lois's deep love, respect, and gratitude for her parents, she simply could not "turn back" the gift her parents had given her. So, she would continue to attend Lutheran Church when visiting her parents.

After Lois's parents had passed, she began to think about joining the Catholic Church. She was already very strong in her faith but didn't really have a Church to call her home. Perhaps the Holy Spirit needed to give her nudge? One day Ed Schmidt pulled her aside and invited her to attend the RCIA program. And the Holy Spirit took it from there! On May 31st, 2020 Lois gave her profession of faith, in front of her parish family and is now a member of the Catholic Church. Her RCIA experience was both educational and humbling and often times she was called up to the front of Church, so be prepared. Lois had lots of support in her RCIA journey,

with many of her fellow parishioners joining in on the sessions and learning right along with Lois. As a cradle Catholic, what you learned as a child has changed or just wasn't taught at that time. Especially, if you were taught pre-Vatican II. She would hear a few say; "I don't think I ever knew that!" Which is the gift that Lois has given, sharing this learning experience with her fellow parishioners. If you ask her about her gifts, she responds with humility. Most of Lois's career (25 years) was spent in a dual role of HR and Finance Director for the Town of Crested Butte - which probably required the gift of patience! She has also shared her talent of caring for others and her parents when they were ill and is now able to enjoy the gift of retirement - sharing time with Rudy and learning/researching more about the Catholic faith.

Lois considers herself a "research geek." When someone presents a tidbit of information, she delves into the detail – learning and creating "holy moments." Like the time she picked up the Catechism of the Catholic Church, to look up something on the Lord's Prayer and randomly opened the book, which brought her to page 521 SOCIAL JUSTICE and it was amazing how fitting this was for our current times and how the Catholic Church has been teaching respect and how to treat each other for years and years. This was a "WOW" moment and a wonderful read relative for today's issues. Truly the Holy Spirit was guiding Lois on this day.

The Catholic Catechism book has been a true guide and reassures Lois that "this is what I'm supposed to do" she just knew this was it. Lois starts each day with the Daily Devotions and finds prayer enjoyable, helping her to release and leaves her with a really "good feeling." Another tool she uses is the Formed program – every day. If you would like to talk with Lois about her experience with the RCIA program, she is happy to set up a time to talk, you can reach her at loisrozman@yahoo.com.

Typically, I have been ending these life stories with a comparison of the Parishioner of the Month's favorite Saint. But the Saints are really a new thing for Lois. The Catholic faith is unique in how we recognize the extraordinary from ordinary people. However, I am confident Lois will find the perfect Saint to connect and relate to, using her research skills and diligence, which she has already set as an example for all of us; that we challenge ourselves to continue to learn and grow in our Catholic faith.

Thank-you Lois for your example of diligence and grace.