

If I had to sum up my experience with O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) in one word, it would be transformative.

In 2023, I made the bold decision to move across the country to pursue my career. As excited as I was for the new opportunities ahead, I was also filled with fear and uncertainty. I didn't know anyone in this new state, and I quickly found myself feeling isolated and disconnected.

During one of my lowest moments, my boyfriend encouraged me to return to church by attending Mass and seeking comfort in the Lord. It was there, in that sacred space, that I began to feel a quiet but powerful call to reconnect with my faith.

Though I had been baptized as a baby and received my First Communion, I had never completed all of my sacraments. It was through O.C.I.A. that I truly came to understand the depth of God's love and the importance of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Post-Confirmation, I can now say with conviction that the missing piece in my heart wasn't a job, a place, or even a sense of belonging but rather the presence of the Holy Spirit.

There were countless Sundays where I sat in Mass feeling unsure, still searching for something more. But through the O.C.I.A. journey, I not only grew in my faith, but I also found a community, a renewed purpose, and a profound sense of peace.

O.C.I.A. didn't just teach me about the Church, it helped me finally feel whole and blessed me with people in my life who will hold me true to my faith in the Lord.

Emily Class of 2025

