Gilmary Center/Maronda Foundation
601 Flaugherty Run Road
Coraopolis, PA 15108
412-264-8400
Web: www.gilmarycenter.org • Email: info@gilmarycenter.org

RCIA Retreat for Candidates, Catechumens, and Sponsors
Gilmary Center
Program Outline

Our approach:
A retreat for RCIA candidates, catechumens, and sponsors offers each attendee an opportunity to communicate with God in a prayerful environment prior to the Easter Vigil. The retreat provides a time for each attendee to speak and to listen to Him who is Savior, Lord, and Sender of the Holy Spirit.

For this reason we do not include any group discussion in our program. Instead, our presentations are followed by times for silent prayer and reflection. We invite those on the retreat to observe silence during these time periods.

Each of the four sessions includes a PowerPoint presentation which contains audio and visual components. Interaction with the candidates occurs throughout the presentations. The talks focus on the retreatant's relationship with God and neighbor and on the graces and responsibilities that accompany the Sacraments. Each candidate is given a booklet which contains prayers and the points for personal reflection which relate to each presentation. These points for reflection aid the retreatants during the times of quiet, prayerful reflection.

RCIA retreat schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Doors open</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 to 10:00</td>
<td>Welcome, opening prayer, and orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 to 11:00</td>
<td>Talk 1—“Baptism: Catholic Family Life” and personalization assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 to 12:00</td>
<td>Talk 2—“Confirmation: Igniting the Fire” and personalization assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 to 12:45</td>
<td>Lunch and free time</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 to 1:45</td>
<td>Talk 3—“Eucharist: Food for the Journey” and personalization assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 to 2:30</td>
<td>Talk 4—“Plan of Life”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 to 3:00</td>
<td>Prayer and adoration in Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Closing remarks and dismissal</td>
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Dates: This one-day retreat is presented on the Saturdays of the Fourth week of Lent and of the Fifth Week of Lent (i.e. the Saturday before Palm Sunday).

Fee: $20 per person for elect and sponsors. If DRE or RCIA coordinator attends, the fee for these individuals is $9 each. Fee covers presentation, materials, coffee/tea, and lunch.
**How to Register:** The parish representative for the RCIA program is asked to contact Lilli Wolfe at Gilmary Center (412-264-8400 or info@gilmarycenter.org) at least two weeks prior to the RCIA retreat with tentative number of attendees. Final numbers and names of attendees are due by the end of the business day on the Tuesday prior to the retreat.

Gilmary will invoice the parish after the retreat.

**For Additional Information:** Contact Lilli Wolfe at 412-264-8400 or info@gilmarycenter.org.

**Our presenters:**

*Regis Flaherty* is director of the Gilmary Center, a frequent speaker on lay spirituality, and a best-selling author. He has directed and given presentations at retreats for over thirty-five years. Rege’s book credits include *God’s on the Phone: Stories of Grace in Action*, *Last Things First*, *Catholic Customs: A Fresh Look at Traditional Practices*, *The How-To Book of Catholic Devotions*, and *Catholic for a Reason IV: Scripture and the Mystery of Marriage and Family Life*.

*Carole DiClaudio* is an associate of Gilmary Center where she directs retreats, days of recollection, and provides spiritual presentations. Carole’s experience includes: youth minister, National Board Member of Silver Ring Thing, Committee member of Mother’s Hope, formation team member in Cursillo, and parish presenter for sacrament preparation.

**Comment from the evaluation of a 2013 attendee:**
“Regis is a great teacher, easy to understand. He uses great examples to make a connection with his message. Carol also did a great job on her heartfelt talk on the Eucharist.”

**Comments on what was “most helpful” from 2011 attendees:**
Quiet time, talk on sacraments, facilitator’s presentation, power point, humor, prayer in chapel, Rege's personal stories made teachings easier to understand, the instructor, confession information, the encouragement to make a plan for ourselves.

**Comment from a Religious Education Coordinator who attended in 2013:**
“Having this review of the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation right before the Easter Vigil is so helpful to remind us what we have been studying for all year. Everything was wonderful.”