

RCIA Corner

Dealing with Anti-Catholicism from friends and family

Sissi Baker

I do not recall the Catholic Church even being mentioned at any time during my childhood. But I have to tell you that I didn't realize just how anti-Catholic many of my friends and family members were, until I became a Catholic.

One aunt told me on the telephone before the Easter Vigil that she would rather I not belong to any church at all, than to become Catholic. A cousin told me she didn't think that Catholics went to heaven. Since I could tell they were unknowledgeable regarding the Catholic Faith, it was hard for me to understand how they could remain so steadfast in their resistance to any attempts of explanation!

I love my Protestant family and friends more than words can even describe. As intelligent as they may be, they were shaped very early on in small, Protestant churches, and have had no exposure to Catholic teachings. I feel there may be instances in which some individuals' hearts are so hardened due to misinformation, that we may never be able to reach them, regardless of how well we explain the Faith. This is when we must step back and allow the Holy Spirit to do the work.

Read and share this and other stories at chnetwork.org/converts



Reflection Questions

1. Have you encountered opposition from family and friends for your decision to become Catholic? How did you respond?
2. What's something about Catholicism that you wish your non-Catholic loved ones understood better?
3. What role do you think the media and past experiences play in people's negative views of the Catholic Church?

There are not a hundred people in America who hate the Catholic Church. There are millions of people who hate what they wrongly believe to be the Catholic Church — which is, of course, quite a different thing.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen



Helping others to discover the truth and beauty of the Catholic Church and to make the journey home.

Find more resources at:
chnetwork.org/RCIA

Suggested Further Reading

