



## Welcome!

On Sunday, January 15th, Holy Spirit Parish conducted the Rites of Welcome & Acceptance for our friends in the RCIA. Immediately following the 9:00AM Mass, the Candidates, Catechumens, their Sponsors and family members joined the 3Cs for a breakfast reception and fellowship in Fabbri Hall. You may have seen many of their photographs in last Sunday's bulletin.

On Wednesday, January 11th, the Knights of Columbus #512 welcomed 6 new members at a Degree Ceremony. Please see page 14 of this bulletin for a photo.



Please join me in welcoming Lisa Minter as our new Safe Environment Coordinator, the program also known as "Protecting God's Children." Lisa shared a little family history with us: "I grew up in Laurel but finished my high school



education at Lawrence County Vo-Tech. I married my high school sweetheart, Ken, moved to Union Township and helped raise two wonderful young men. In the past 35 years in the parish, beginning at St. James, I have had the pleasure of serving as a lector, choir member and bell choir member. At present I serve our parish as a cantor and as an usher. Now I am given the honor to be able to serve you, my church family, in another capacity."

Lisa has also been serving as a parish volunteer for several years—with her husband, Ken—as a greeter. Lisa recently has taken over scheduling for some of our ministries. Safe Environment is a very important and necessary part of our parish life. This position comes with tremendous responsibility. I am personally very grateful to Lisa for her willingness to take on this responsibility.

All of us, including the clergy, as well as parish staff are obliged to participate in these background certifications. I know that sometimes our wonderful volunteers are hesitant or sluggish when it comes to making sure they are in compliance with the mandates of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, however, this is a serious matter and we all are obliged to be in compliance. The USCCB audits every diocese in the US to insure all of the parishes of that diocese are in compliance.

Please do your part to insure that you and any family members who are volunteers are indeed up to date with your clearances.

God love you,