

Dear St. Cecilia Parish Family,

8/26/09

“Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word” is the 2009 theme for Catechetical Sunday.

The essential mission of the Church is to share the Gospel message- the Good News of Jesus Christ - with others.

What does all this mean? It means taking the Bible off the shelf and bringing it to the living room, the place where the family gathers. Please make certain prayer and reflection is a part of everyday life.

You may feel unqualified to understand or study the bible. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Consider the Blessed Mother Mary, when she responds to Elizabeth’s greeting with the Canticle (Luke 1:46-55) known as the *Magnificat*. She shows herself to be the first Christian disciple, the first Christian missionary, and also the first Christian Catechist. The *Magnificat* is a model of catechesis. **Mary’s response is not unquestioning or uncritical. Luke describes her pondering-not just once, but over and over again-the unfolding revelation that transforms her life.** (Luke 2:19, 51). We too are called to learn from Mary.

Parishioners without children often wonder why they receive this mailing. Religious Formation is not only for the youth. It’s about our own Faith formation and how we as adults allow faith to come active and alive (an unfolding revelation) that transforms us in our daily lives, just as Mary did.

Parents, Grandparents and all family members are witnesses and important role models. Faith is learned at home and in the family. Encourage others to register their youth, and also to look at their own faith formation. Take advantage of the opportunities offered to adults. Religious formation is not simply for preparing young people to receive Sacraments. We are all called to build a community of living faith by becoming fully involved. Evangelization involves introducing others to Jesus Christ and helping them form a relationship with Christ and the Church. Home life is where faith matures and where active discipleship is “caught.” Parents are the first and most important teachers and living examples of how to follow the Gospel message. Catechists, Grandparents, family members and even neighbors work together as a team to teach Catholic morals values and traditions to our children. Our full, active participation and involvement in our Church are the best examples of positive role modeling, and are the best way to communicate to our children our deep commitment to God and to our Catholic Faith.

Ponder as Mary did, to further your own Faith Formation by taking advantage of the Adult Faith Formation opportunities listed on the back of this letter.

Enclosed, you will find the Youth Religious Education schedule for 2009-2010, tuition fees, registration form, and other pertinent information.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming year, please call the Religious Education Office: 253-5621 and please make sure that you participate “fully” by volunteering in every way that you can.

God’s Peace and Blessings,

Dave Kordell
Director of Religious Formation

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