Faith Formation Files: Vol. 1, Issue 5 October 21, 2018

NERD ALERT!!! My most indelible experience with being initiated was at marching band camp before my freshman year of high school. Upper classmen were assigned certain roles: section leader (head of an entire section of instruments such as clarinets, trumpets, percussion, etc.), squad leader (lead of a particular group of marchers, usually 1 or 2 groups of 4 musicians aligned next to each other in the marching formation), or dorm leader (someone to watch over the activities and antics of 3-4 dorm rooms’ worth of students.) These upper classmen earned these positions by age and experience (and probably a bit of favoritism.) Besides the actual expectations of their positions, it was also part of their responsibilities to make sure all incoming freshmen “earned” their way into the marching band by being initiated. I remember one guy had to shave his legs. Another had to clear all the squad leaders’ dishes in the cafeteria for the whole week. I was taxed with the challenge to pinch the backside of one of the section directors (an adult, musician friend brought in by our band director to help each of the categories of instruments: brass, woodwinds, percussion, etc.) I was mortified! I just knew this was the worst dare ever. No one in the history of all time had ever been given such a harrowing taunt. Now mind you, this was long before we were aware/litigious of any kind of harassment. Anyway, on the given day, at the specified time, and in the way I was directed, I ran up to (I don’t even remember his name!) and tweaked his posterior. I rushed back to my spot in formation and continued on as if nothing had happened. Except now I was “in.” I had successfully completed the dare and was therefore inducted into the ranks of instrumentalists. I was a full-fledged member of the band!

Thankfully, our initiation into the Christian faith doesn’t depend on such sophomoric behavior. But for most of us, we also lack the memory of our Baptism. And that is such a shame because that is the first step of our journey to becoming a full member of Christ’s Church. A fully-initiated Catholic is someone who has been baptized, confirmed, and has received the Eucharist. Please join us this month as we take an in-depth look at Baptism. While the whole year of classes is based on the same theme, the Sacraments, each class is a stand-alone entity. You do not have to have attended all (or even any!) of the previous classes to understand or get something out of these classes. We look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings,

Julie Gould

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This Week:

 Sunday, Oct. 21, 4-6 pm at Fellowship Hall: A Family of Faith class for adults, plus other options for everyone else in the family. Please bring your Family of Faith books.

 Monday, Oct. 22, 7-8:30 pm at St. Francis de Sales Church, Lakeview: Adult Enrichment class

 Wednesday, Oct. 24, 7:30-9 pm at Fellowship Hall: Video Presentation; - videos 7 & 8 of the series Queen of Heaven, Mary’s Battle for Souls- “Fatima” & “The Consecration”