Faith Formation Files: Vol. 1, Issue 1 September 23, 2018

As I stand here at the precipice of this first year as the Director of Faith Formation, I wonder how it has come to be. How is it that I got this job? I know there are others who are more qualified for this position than I. I am well aware of how many classes I have yet to take to finish my program. I am discovering how much more I have to learn about Faith Formation programming, scheduling, recruiting volunteers, and all the other behind-the-scenes tasks that need to happen to make the classes successful. With lacking so many of the qualifications this job demands, how is it that I ended up here? As is the answer to so many of my questions, By the Grace of God!

God does not necessarily call the qualified. Rather, he qualifies the called. For years I have prayed for God to use me: to let his light shine through me, to let me say the right words to help someone discover God’s love for them, to be his hands and feet to bring comfort to my fellow man. I feel that this is an opportunity for God to use me. I pray that I can be a resource for you whether that be as a teacher at a weekly class, as someone who can connect you with the answers you’re looking for, as a prayer warrior, or as an example of a simple sinner trying to do her best to get through this life so I can spend eternity with God in the next one. I know that I will mess up. I will say things and do things; I will forget to say things and forget to do things; I will say the wrong things and do the wrong things. Please forgive me and realize that it is part of God’s qualifying me. There are many rough edges to knock off! I guess it’s proof that God has a sense of humor or that he enjoys a challenge. Or both!

If you have ever ridden in a plane, you are familiar with the direction that in case of an emergency put on your own oxygen mask before assisting others. We all know that in order to take care of anyone else, we have to take care of ourselves, first. That applies to us physically, but also spiritually. As members of the Church, you are called to be disciples and evangelizers. When you married, you entered into a covenant to love and support each other until death do you part. When you had your children baptized, you promised to “bring them up in the practice of the faith.” But before you can do any of those things for others, you must be taken care of yourself. Please take advantage of this opportunity for self-help. Recognize your own value and commit to attending class once a week for your own benefit. Set aside some time each day to develop and grow into your relationship with Christ. Acknowledge that as a child of Christ, made in his image, you are deserving of some pampering. Join me on this journey!

Blessings,

Julie Gould

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This Week:

* Sunday, Sept. 23, 4-6 pm at Fellowship Hall: Faith Formation classes for the whole family.
* Monday, Sept. 24, 7-8:30 pm at Fellowship Hall: Adult Enrichment class
* Saturday, Sept. 29, 8:30-3 pm at West Catholic High School, Grand Rapids: Parish Ministry and Catechetical Conference (registration required)