Faith Formation Files: Vol. 1, Issue 2 September 30, 2018

So the ball is officially rolling! We had our first Sunday Faith Formation program last week. I was pleased to actually have people show up out of respect for their faith and with an element of curiosity. I am hoping more continue to join us this week. My nervousness, a technical difficulty, and the challenge of trying to make sure all in attendance fully understood our foundational concept were the obstacles. The benefits were the building of our faith community, gaining a better understanding of what a sacrament is, having great questions and discussion, inclusive group work and conversation, integrated learning across all the age groups, and time spent with God. All in all, I would say it was a great first class!

If you were not able to join us, you are more than welcome to come this week. While we will be continuing our work on understanding the Catholic definition of “sacrament,” our lesson will review last week’s work so you will get caught up right away. We will come up with additional real-life examples of “visible signs of an invisible reality.” We will expand our learning to include the additional components of the definition: “efficacious”, “instituted by Christ”, “entrusted to the Church”, and that the sacraments “confer the grace that they signify.” We will be using videos (with no technical difficulties, hopefully), having discussions, and making connections to our own lives to develop and ensure our understanding of the cornerstone doctrine.

 If any of this sounds familiar, I could use your help ensuring that the others also come to grasp the concept. If it sounds foreign, know that many of those who came last week were in the same boat. It also shows that there is much learning that needs to take place. Eucharist is the most commonly celebrated sacrament. Most of us partake, at least, weekly. If you don’t truly and completely understand the reality of what you are doing, and/or if you do not “receive them with the required disposition”, there can be repercussions. Most importantly, you are missing out on fully receiving God’s grace. If you were given a free shopping spree at your favorite store, wouldn’t you use a cart as you raced through the aisles? You wouldn’t want to waste any of the opportunity by not being able to carry all the products over the finish line before time was up, would you? The same happens when you receive Eucharist (or any sacrament) without fully understanding in what you are participating. Yes, you “get” the most important “items” from the shopping spree, but there is so much more that is missed just because you weren’t able to “carry” them all. Come see how you can grow and learn, and be most able to receive ALL of God’s grace.

I think you for your prayers, the words of encouragement I’ve received, and all the help whether as a catechist, assistant, Child care or snack provider, participant, or sounding board. You embody Christ’s love. Please keep me in your prayers, as I will keep you in mine. As always, please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

 Blessings,

 Julie Gould

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This Week:

* Sunday, Sept. 30, 4-6 pm at Fellowship Hall: Faith Formation classes for the whole family.
* Monday, Oct. 1, 7-8:30 pm at St. Francis de Sales Church, Lakeview : Adult Enrichment class
* Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7:30-9 pm at Fellowship Hall: Video Presentation; - videos 1&2 of the series Queen of Heaven, Mary’s Battle for Souls- “Battle Begins” & “The Annunciation”