~Faith Formation Forum~

Vol. 3 Issue 1 Theme: The Creed October 3, 2021

Lesson 1: I Believe

The aim of the first part of this lesson is for your children to learn what faith is and to begin to think about their faith in God. In the second part of the lesson, our children learn that the Church has summarized the great mysteries of our Faith in the Apostles’ Creed.

Questions of the Month:

What does it mean to believe?

Who is God?

How can we know Him?

Verse of the Month:

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. ~Hebrews 11:1

Things to Do at Home:

If you or your child(ren) do not already know these basic prayers, please take time to learn them:

The Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Prayer Before a Meal

Prayer After a Meal

Saint of the Month:A picture containing text, tree, grass, mammal

Description automatically generated St. Francis of Assisi

Words to Know:

Believe- to accept as the truth

Trust- to rely on someone

Faith- a gift from God as well as our free response to believe what God tells us about Himself and about the world He made.

Theological Virtues- faith, hope, and love; these virtues come from God and point to Him.

Obey- to do what God tells us to do (and to do what God’s representatives- parents, priests, teachers, and so forth-tell us to do).

Creed- All the things that we believe in.

Apostles’ Creed- The most important truths about our Catholic Faith written down together. These include many of the truths God wants us to have faith in.

Monthly Storybook Activity:

Your Family Genesis Story, pg. 38

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**Suggested Content: Symbolon, Session 1**

I was raised Catholic. We attended church on Sundays. We went to Sunday school classes, too. We observed Holy Days. I even went to Catholic School for a couple years. But because I can’t say that we really “lived” our faith, it was all too easy for me to fall away once I was on my own. During the next few years, I can guarantee you that I in no way even came close to living my faith. In fact, these years are my way of connecting to the beginnings of the Catholic church; in the words of Casting Crowns, “You picked 12 outsiders nobody would’ve chosen, and You changed the world.” I was definitely this caliber of people. But as how things usually happen, I eventually had a moment in life when I finally saw what God wanted for me. He wanted me to return to Him.

Now that was a scary concept. What if all I had done in those years was so bad that Jesus didn’t want me back? What if he asked something of me that I wasn’t yet ready to do? What if I had to step outside my comfort zone and be somebody that my former self would have taunted and ridiculed? Was I up for all that? Nope. But I had faith. I’m not sure where it came from or what made me think that I could really change who I was, but something (or someone) was telling me otherwise. So I started to pray. And I made a conscious effort to be more like Jesus…less cynicism, more compassion, less pride, more patience, less selfishness, more forgiveness. So here I am on this journey…farther ahead than I once was but no where near where I want to end up. And everyday that I take a step, I make sure that it is in the right direction, and I take it. Sometimes it is a giant leap. Other times it is the tiniest shuffle forward. But always it is to be more like Jesus. Step. Step. Shuffle. Reorient. Shuffle. Reorient again. Step. Step. Leap!

Please join me on this journey to be more Christ-like. Delve into the study of our faith, specifically this year, the Creed. It is a prayer we pray at every Mass and it summarizes all that we believe in in a very succinct way. Let’s unpack this prayer together so we can all better understand our beliefs and be more able to be the people Christ calls us to be.

Join us for Faith Formation class on Sundays at noon/right after the 11 am Mass. We meet in Fellowship Hall. **I am still in need of a few adults who are willing to provide childcare or lead a kids group while the parents are attending their class.** Please contact me ASAP if you can help with this. I can provide the lessons and activities; I just need YOU to present it.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help you grow your relationship with God, if you are looking for answers to your questions, or if you need a listening ear, please contact me. You can call 231-937-5757 or email me at faithformation@ctknsf.org.

Blessings,

Julie Gould

Director of Faith Formation