

## Pastor's Column

“Isaiah 43”: Calling all school-age Parents



I am happy to announce that our Parish will host an Archdiocesan program, “Isaiah 43,” beginning this October. Sponsored by Catholic Charities, Isaiah 43 teaches ‘Christian Active Parenting’ (rather than *reactive* parenting) through biblical principles. Parents learn how to communicate with children and guide them without the need for yelling, spanking or timeouts. Parents who have experienced Isaiah 43 have spoken of a reawakening of their faith and a very positive effect on family life and interaction.

Isaiah 43 is presented over six evenings one time a month for six months. Each session will begin with a simple free meal at 6 pm for parents and children in the St. Francis school cafeteria. After dinner, children will remain in the cafeteria for play or homework with volunteer sitters. Parents will head to St. Joseph Hall from 6:30 – 7:45 pm for a presentation, which will consist of instruction, videos, discussion and workbooks – all provided free of charge by Catholic Charities. **Isaiah 43 is open to St. Francis school parents, to parents who are parishioners but whose children attend a different school, and to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.**

There will be an Orientation Presentation on Isaiah 43 during the St. Francis Xavier School “Home and School Association” Meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 11 in the School Auditorium. A representative of Catholic Charities will explain the program in greater detail, and a parent who has participated in the program will give witness to its positive impact. There will be a chance to sign up at the meeting.

In truth, most parents knock themselves out enrolling their children in activities, driving them to activities, and attending the activities in which their children participate. Isaiah 43 is designed for a parent’s *interior* life, so that all the outward work and activities in raising children is mirrored by interior growth in faith, calm and peace.

Please help us promote this exciting new opportunity for growth in parenting skills and interior refreshment of our school-age parents and their families. Please pray for God’s anointing on the Isaiah 43 Program at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe