



## *Catholic Community of New Bedford North*

106 Illinois Street, New Bedford, MA 02745

Phone: 508-995-3593

August 21, 2020

Greetings to the CCNBN Faith Formation families:

After much planning, replanning and planning again, we are finally ready to offer our Faith Formation program for 2020-2021 to the parishes. Our co-pastors are correct in stating that this year will not be a “normal” one as in years past but what we are offering to your families will hopefully be flexible enough to move through the changes that might or will occur due to the current pandemic. I’ve appreciated everyone’s patience and understanding since I first arrived last September and I hope it will continue into this next season.

Let me give you the basics now and the details as we go along. The program will begin on Sunday, October 4, 2020 and conclude on Sunday, May 2, 2021. While I’m still putting individual group schedules together, the rhythm of the whole program will be a combination of in-person and online sessions. Candidates in the sacramental years (Grades 1, 2, 8, & 9) will meet once a month in-person, with the rest of the sessions online with their catechists. The children and youth in the remaining levels (Grades 3-7) will meet primarily online but will gather twice in-person between October 2020 and May 2021. We will be using the larger gathering spaces in the St. Mary/All Saints complex because they are the best for good ventilation, ease of use and efficient cleaning. Masks will have to be worn by children, parents and catechists/aids/staff per order of the Commonwealth.

Registration for the 2020-21 season will begin on Wednesday, September 2nd and families will have the option of either using an online portal (similar to online giving) to register and pay by credit card or mailing in/dropping off a registration form to the central office they can download from our website accompanied by check. Fees will be \$35 per child / \$75 for 3 or more children per family with an additional fee for the sacramental years of Grades 2 & 9. Once we’ve received your registration we will send out specific details for each group, when they will meet and what materials we will use. Please make sure you provide us with your most up-to-date phone numbers, home and email addresses on the form so there is never an undue delay in contacting you, particularly during this time of uncertainty.

I will be on vacation until August 29th so if you have any questions or concerns I will be happy to address them at that time. I want to thank Fr. Raposo and Msgr. Oliveira for their continued support of our Collaborative program and I am grateful for your cooperation and willingness to share your faith with your children in the Catholic

tradition. May God continue to bless and protect us as we navigate uncharted waters, knowing that He is always with us in the boat to guide our way.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay holy.

Joanne Mercier