

St Mary Religious Formation

MEMO

August 15, 2019



Dear Catechists, Catechist Aides and Peer Witnesses,

I do hope this summer time has been one of rest, relaxation and prayer for you!

As we start to focus on returning to school schedules and activities for the children, it is also time to prepare ourselves for the coming Faith Formation year!

Beginning on **September 22nd**, our Faith Formation program will officially begin. Children will be in their classrooms. Family Formation will begin on **October 6th & 7th**.

The Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis is pleased to announce the release of the 2019 Catechetical Sunday focused on the theme: **"Stay With Us"** There are many good articles illustrating the state of the Church and its people today on the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/stay-with-us>

Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization

A statement by the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?'" - Acts 1:8-11

Christ commands us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We are to proclaim his Good News to all people, everywhere and at all times. After Christ promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit will come upon them, he ascends into heaven. The disciples, rather than heeding Christ's command to be his witnesses, stare "intently at the sky." It takes "two men dressed in white garments" asking, "Men of Galilee, why are you . . . looking at the sky?" for the disciples to begin to realize the meaning of Christ's command (Acts 1:10-11).

How often do we fail to realize that we are called to be Christ's witnesses to the world? Do we realize that our Baptism, Confirmation, and reception of the Eucharist bestow on us the grace we need to be disciples? Are we like the disciples staring at the sky rather than inviting those around us to experience Christ's love and mercy through the Church? How often do we reach out to our missing brothers and sisters by inviting them to join us at Mass or by asking why they no longer feel welcomed at the Lord's Table? The answers to these questions underlie the evangelizing mission of the Church, especially in the call of the New Evangelization.

So, do we need Catechists?

YES! The Church will always need workers in the field preparing for the Harvest!

How can we handle all of the needs of our Parish?

We must all go out as Jesus sends us and call forth fellow workers to help and also those who have not yet heard the Word of God speaking and directing them to Him. This is a lot for us all to do! We have been called and we have a responsibility and the joy of being the evangelizers of God! **If you know someone who would be a good catechist or helper, let me know!!! I will call them and extend the invitation!**

Celebration and Blessing of All Catechists and Peer Witnesses

Those who serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. (USCCB)

We will start the year with time to bless and commission our wonderful Catechists, Peer Helpers and Aides as we begin our time together.

Sunday, September 15th at the 9:15 AM Mass in the Church. Following Mass we will have our first gathering of the year and a Communion Breakfast in the Barn! Msgr. Kevin Royal, our new Pastor, will be our Speaker!

Very Important Dates for the Year

Calendars, materials, and review of the year are available on:

<i>Sept. 4</i>	<i>Family Formation Catechists</i>	<i>4:00 and 7:00 PM</i>
<i>Sept. 5</i>	<i>Grade 1 to 5 traditional Catechists</i>	<i>4:00 and 7:00 PM</i>
<i>Sept 10</i>	<i>Confirmation Catechists</i>	<i>4:00 and 7:00 PM</i>
<i>Sept. 11</i>	<i>Edge Catechists</i>	<i>4:00 and 7:00 PM</i>
<i>Sept. 12</i>	<i>Grade 8 Chosen Catechists</i>	<i>4:00 and 7:00 PM</i>
<i>Sept. 17</i>	<i>NEW (or nearly new!) Catechist training</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>

AND

October 27th at 2:00 PM in St Mary Hall - A Catechist Conversation with Bishop Caggiano and Patrick Donovan. This is so very important for everyone who is in a formation ministry, including Bible Study, Sacramental preparation, Youth Ministry, as well as Catechists!! I have scheduled this day at our Parish to make it convenient, but if you cannot attend on this date, there will be other dates all over the Diocese. (Yes, mandatory!)

October 19th Formation Day at All Saints School, Norwalk (Details to follow)

May 12th Catechist and Aides Appreciation Dinner

I really look forward to meeting you and talking about the exciting plans for the coming Religious Ed year!

Thank you so very much for giving of your time talent and prayer for all the children of our Parish and their families! You are the most important ministry that the Church has and we all know the sacrifice and joy that you bring to catechesis!

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!!!

Pat