

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we are celebrating Catechetical Sunday, which is an important reminder that the work of passing on our faith is an essential mission of each member of the Church.

You might recall that several years ago we changed the name of our *Religious Education Program* to *Faith Formation*. We made this change to indicate a shift from a program whose primary responsibility was teaching children about our religion, simply passing on information, to a commitment to forming these children into being “disciples” of Jesus today. As disciples we are called through baptism to fulfill the great commission given to us by Jesus before he ascended to heaven, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . .” (Matt. 28:19)

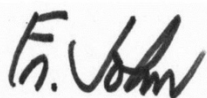
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers the following description of this year’s celebration: *“This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 19, 2021, under the theme of “Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed.” On this day, catechists are formally commissioned for ministry to the community. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays 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.”*

As part of this year’s celebration, we will be recognizing those men and women who will be serving as catechists this coming year. Along with the catechists we acknowledge the significant role that parents play in forming their children in our Catholic faith as disciples. The latest Catechetical Directory indicates that parents are the primary witnesses to their children of the faith. Formerly, the directory spoke of parents as the primary educators. The new insight recognizes that education deals with passing on information, witnessing involves demonstrating one’s faith by the manner through which a person lives his or her life.

As a parish community we are grateful to all the catechists, the parents of the children in our Faith Formation Program and our entire parish as we work together to make Jesus known and loved.

A special word of gratitude to Lucy Creed, the Director of Faith Formation, Lauren Canavaciol, our Faith Formation administrative assistant, and those who volunteer in our Faith Formation Office. Once again, we say “farewell and thank you” to Gina Drost, the Coordinator of our Confirmation Program and Youth Ministry, who is relocating to North Carolina at the end of September. Lucy Creed and I are presently considering how to best address this change in our Faith Formation Program.

Let us pray for all those involved in our Faith Formation Program. May the Holy Spirit inspire them, especially the children of our parish, to deepen their commitment to on-going growth as disciples of Jesus! *Mary, Mother of the Church, lead us closer to your son, Jesus!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.