

Catechetical Sunday

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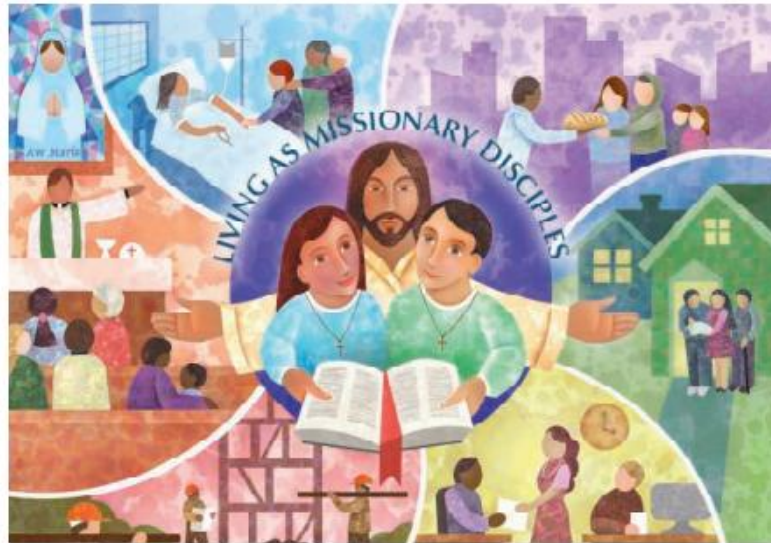
Parents are the principal and first teachers of their children, but they are not alone in this awesome task. The parish family wants to come alongside you. The School of Religion's mission is to support families, and provide additional opportunities for our little ones to encounter Christ and to feel the love of God. Our goal is to foster faith and help pass down the wonderful traditions that have been entrusted to us by the Apostles.

By virtue of our Baptism, we are *all* called to be catechists. We should speak the truths of God in our homes, workplaces, schools, and even in Wegmans. We have often heard the quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words". This isn't meant to exempt us from knowing our faith and being able to explain what the Church teaches. Rather, it should remind us to live and interact with others in ways consistent with our faith.

Again, thankfully, we are not asked to do these things without help. Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "Jesus Christ loves you, gave his life to save you, and now is living at your side, every day, to

enlighten, free, and strengthen you." We are given strength by receiving the Sacraments, and connecting with our community of faith.

The catechists who will be blessed at each of our Masses this weekend have made a commitment to witness to the love of God and to faithfully pass on the teachings of the Catholic Church



to the children of our parish. These amazing volunteers give of their time and talents to build upon the foundation of faith we have given our children at home, a faith our children can carry in their hearts for life. Please pray for our students, families, and catechists as we begin a new school year this week.

Bethany Lyle
Director of Faith Formation