



Dear Parishioners,

The children and teens, renewed by the summer break, are back to our Parochial School, Faith Formation and Confirmation. The sight of a hall full of teens broken into small groups of discussion, dialogue, mutuality exchange, and just ordinary companionship, is inspiring. The role of the Catechist is one of enabling, training, facilitating, and creating a space for young people to take responsibility for building community, and having to do with seeing hearing, speaking, talking, listening, feeling, sharing and so on. The role of the Catechist serves to keep the process on track and produce good fruit. God bless all the catechists as they share their faith in building Christian community.

Allow me to say a word on middle school. Middle school establishes a frame work of success for young people. Students begin to understand the importance of education and its role in their path to achievement as they begin to visualize their future and consequently take responsibility for their learning. Choosing a middle school that meets those needs and nurtures your son or daughter in this critical development time is crucial.

I present to you there are many advantages to Catholic middle school at STGG. First there is strong study skills and critical thinking to equip for future success. There is formation of character, taking a stand for justice in corporal/spiritual works of mercy – by standing for what is right and for rights of all students, thus learning to be a leader. It fosters courage, integrity and values, through catholic school ethos. More easily, caught than taught.

There is the strengthening of corporate, personal identity as well as endorsing family values. And it has to do with anchoring one's decision making process in both faith and community - a wisdom far greater than our own. There is also, whole person sex education, developing a healthy sexuality based on self-worth as a child of God; placing sexual activity in the context of commitment, in sacramental marriage and personal responsibility.

Catholic School Retreats give opportunity to see oneself in relation to the world and hence build on a common humanity in the body of Christ. At an age of natural questioning and self-assertion, there is the anchoring of a person in a safe place, small environment, where they are known, accepted, and appreciated - as they test the waters of self-discovery, daily communal prayer, encouragement of private and home personal prayer, regular school Masses and prayer services, all cultivate a deeper sense of liturgical engagement particularly toward regular Sunday Mass, the heart of the Catholic Faith.

Christ is the reason for our Catholic School and Christ plays a great role in middle school. Christ gives Identity as a child of God and is focal in wrestling with decision making. Christ is a friend in loneliness' and support in adversity.

As you see, I am an ardent advocate for Catholic School and especially for middle school, as 13 is the age when young people leave the church. If any parents wish to consider middle school, Mrs. O'Connell and myself would be happy to meet with you. We are committed to making Catholic School affordable for all Parish families.

I invite you to a morning on The Spirituality of the Laity which is stewardship. Set aside the date of October 19th with Tracy Welliver. Please refer to page 7 for more information.

Lastly, we hope you enjoyed the Fall Festival on September 28th. A special thanks to Katie Herbert and Brie Atwater for chairing the event.

Have a blessed fruitful fall season!

Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Very Reverend Nicholas Clavin
Pastor