

Report for St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Pastoral Council
Catechetical Ministries
March 2019

Source:

Sue Thompson sue_thom@sbcglobal.net

Summary and Role:

- The Department of Catechetical Ministries serves the parish in general. Our goal is to respond to the needs of the people of God who are seeking to complete Sacraments or have the desire to deepen their relationship with God and to belong to the parish community.
- We provide a variety of programs to support the spiritual life and the faith development of individuals. Some programs target specific age groups.
- Our three major areas of service are: Adult Catechesis, Children's Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation.

ADULT CATECHESIS

- **Adult Education** - Our parish offers a variety of adult education opportunities throughout the year for adults who wish to deepen their faith and grow in their spiritual life. EXAMPLES: Fr. Art's lecture series; retreats; Novena of Grace; Women's monthly scripture reflection.
- **Catholics Come Home** - This program is for anyone who has been alienated from the Catholic Church and wishes to return. This program works with RCIA and is offered once a year as need arises, to help participants re-connect with their faith, receive some instruction, and start participating in parish life.
- **RCIA- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/Children** - A process designed to assist people who wish to become members of the Catholic Church or wish to complete the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. This process is offered to adults and adapted for school-age children who wish to receive the sacraments of initiation.
- **Adult Confirmation Program** - This program is for adults who are already catechized and living their faith but need and desire to be confirmed. We offer this program once a year beginning in January.

- **Young Adult Ministry**- This program is for all young adults ages 20 to 35, who are seeking a place to call home, live their faith and experience community. This program is coordinated by Amanda Lee and is under the supervision of the Catechetical Ministries.
- **Annulments – Jean Nelson**, is a volunteer and a Parish Advocate for the Diocese. Jean works as a liaison among the parish priests, the Director of Catechetical Ministries and works directly with the individuals who come and seek an annulment.

CHILDREN’S CATECHESIS

- **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** - Our parish offers a program for school-age children (K-6th grade) at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The children are dismissed with an adult Catechist prior to the Liturgy of the Word and are invited to reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings according to their age level.
- **Friends of Jesus** - Our parish offers a Religious Education Program for preschoolers (ages 3 through 5) on Sundays from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. This program runs late September through April each year.
- **Religious Education** - Our parish offers a Religious Education Program for school-age children (Kindergarten to Junior High) on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This program gives children different opportunities to learn about God and continue to grow in their faith and spiritual development.
- **Teen Ministry** – This program provides high school age teens the opportunity to come together, to learn and share their faith in community. It also creates opportunities for teens to experience retreats and explore their faith and deepen their relationship with Christ. This program is coordinated by Maggie Murray-Kawasaki and is under the supervision of the Director of the Catechetical Ministries.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- **Baptism Preparation** - A program offered to parents and Godparents who are seeking baptism for their child. Parents can attend the classes before the birth of their child. This class is offered on the second Monday of each month.
- **First Eucharist Preparation** - Children receive First Eucharist and Reconciliation after a two-year preparation in our parish school or the Religious Ed. Program. These sacraments are usually received in the second grade. Older children are prepared to receive Eucharist and Reconciliation through the Children's Initiation Program, also called RCIC.

- **Confirmation Preparation** – Confirmation is a two-year program at the Jr. High level. Students are required to attend the Pre-Confirmation in their first year in order to be considered a candidate for Confirmation on the second year, when they receive the actual sacrament of Confirmation.

The goal of each program is to help individuals and families to know Christ, learn the teachings and the traditions of the Church and to extend an invitation for everyone to grow into a deeper relationship with Christ, by participating in the faith life of the Parish Community of St. Ignatius.

Leadership & participants:

Leaders who are trained and certified:

- Director of Catechetical Ministries (staff)
- Administrative assistant (staff)
- Young Adult Coordinator (staff)
- Teen Coordinator (staff)
- Baptism Coordinator (volunteer)
- Volunteer Catechists for the different programs
- RCIA Team & RCIA Dismissal Team
 - 10-14 volunteers who help in different areas of the RCIA program, including presenting classes; help with retreat, rites, Easter Vigil, annulments; scripture reflection with the candidates
- Adult Ed. Committee (volunteers)
- Clergy
- Guest Speakers

Participants

- Parents
- Children
- Adults from other Parishes
- Infants
- Teens
- Parishioners
- Our Religious Education programs serves 150 public school kids on a weekly basis.

Budget:

- Income from registration fees and donations.
- \$?

Communication:

- We communicate with the Diocese, Pastoral Staff, School Staff, Parents, Volunteers

- Publicity via Bulletin, Web site, email, letters and flyers

Where we struggle:

- Always in need of more volunteers
- Sustaining those volunteers who have been trained.
- Responding to the variety of needs and requests from families and individuals, at all age levels.
- Our challenge is to be able to keep up with all the different demands and the work load, and not having enough volunteers to help us.

Ideas for improvement:

- Continue to recruit, train and promote volunteers to take leadership in different ministries

What we do well:

- The Celebration of our Sacramental life and the Rites in Liturgy
- First Eucharist Liturgies
- Confirmation Liturgy
- RCIA Rites and Easter Vigil
- Group Baptisms
- Adult Education Series
- Welcome and support families through their faith journey and sacramental experience