

August 22, 2018

Dear Faith Formation Families of Grades 5-12,

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since ‘no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord’ ”

The Joy of the Gospel, Evangelii Gaudium (3, pg.1)

Welcome back! I hope your summer has been relaxing and rejuvenating. Summer for me has certainly been busy with lots of learning going on, but I am anxiously waiting for school and Faith Formation to start back up soon.

What is missionary discipleship? This is a theme that our diocese is uncovering this year, and a theme I want to bring to Sacred Heart. Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)* talks about what a missionary disciple is, “In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization... Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries’, but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples’.” (120, pgs.60-61)

There are four stages of missionary discipleship. The first stage is **Encounter** and begins with a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. As in John 1:39, Jesus says, “Come and see.” This encounter is an invitation to change the mind and heart to lead to a change of life. The second stage is **Accompany** to invite others to have a deeper relationship with Christ. Jesus says in Matthew 9:9, “Follow Me”. The third stage is **Community** is we are brought together by the work of the Holy Spirit to celebrate and enjoy fellowship together through the Sacraments and prayer. In John 15:4, Jesus says, “Remain in me.” The fourth stage is **Send on Mission** (Send) to continue to share the Good News and love of Christ to all. Jesus says in Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Throughout this year, we will be unpacking these four stages more in depth.

We will begin the Faith Formation year with **REQUIRED Parent/Student Meeting** in Church on **Wednesday, September 5, at 6:30 PM**. Following the meeting, we will celebrate the Eucharist together to encounter Christ with our **Opening Faith Formation Mass at 7:00 PM**. All families are invited to an ice cream social in Nativity Hall after Mass. Faith Formation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 19 at 6:00 PM for grades K-4 and 6:30 PM for grades 5-11.

Attention all 10th-11th grades parents, reminder that our Confirmation program is a two year process. To be confirmed, you must attend the 10th grade and 11th grade Confirmation classes. We will have a **REQUIRED parent/student Confirmation Meeting on Wednesday, September 19, at 6:30 PM** in Nativity Hall.

We are still looking for adult mentors this year to accompany our students to encounter Christ in their Faith Formation classes. We are looking for adult mentors to share their faith in the following grades:

5th Grade: 4 adult mentors

6th Grade: 4 adult mentors

7th Grade: 4 adult mentors

9th Grade: 4 adult mentors

10th Grade: 2 adult mentors

11th Grade: 1 adult mentors

Please prayerfully consider becoming an adult mentor to lead our young Church to Jesus Christ and make disciples. We will have an Adult Mentor Training on Sunday, September 9 starting with the 10:00 AM Mass and following in the Emmaus Room of the Parish Center. If you have any questions about becoming an adult mentor or are interested, please contact Edna or myself at 835-1500 or at shffwaseca@gmail.com. Thank you.

I am eagerly looking forward to the year and to help form deeper encounters with Christ. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns; my door is always open in the Parish Center.

To Jesus through Mary,

Kayla Greiner
Coordinator of Grades 5-12 and Youth Ministry
shffwaseca@gmail.com
835-1500