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Dear Parent,

I hope you are enjoying a relaxing summer! It's time to register for Religious Education Classes for the fall.

According to Pew US Religious Study in 2008, only 30% of American adults who were raised Catholic are still practicing their faith. We certainly live in a secular society at a time of great apostasy, when many are abandoning their faith. So how do we raise our children to love Jesus and stay in community?

Religious Education is extremely important for people of all ages, since faith is a life long journey of walking with our Lord, and growing in love with Him. Children especially need religious education, as it provides the foundational knowledge and experiences necessary to become a disciple. This groundwork can be a support to them during the transition of their teenage years.

As a parent, you are your child's first and primary catechist. The parish can assist you by providing the curriculum the Archdiocese of Indianapolis wants each child to know at each grade level, as well as trained catechists to teach these objectives. The parish offers Children's Liturgies to provide sacramental graces and to foster an interest in ministry. We will be presenting the Circle of Grace Program again this year, to help children develop a healthy worldview in which they show respect for themselves and others. We are also offering a Family Life Series chastity education program for those students in grades K-8. I will give more explanation of these programs at our **First Day of Class Kickoff on Sunday, August 14th at 10:30am in the cafeteria.**

In Parish Religious Education, each grade has a unique focus, with objectives which are not necessarily taught at any of the other grade levels. Therefore, attendance at each grade level is very important for a child to gain a basic overall knowledge of the Catholic Faith. Attendance at each grade level is necessary to gain a basic knowledge of our faith, and each year is important to bring children to God at level they can understand.

Please find enclosed the registration form and calendar for this year's religious education program. **Note that parents and children attend the first class together on Sunday, August 14th at 10:30am in the cafeteria.** Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, scheduling conflicts, or ideas. May God bless you and your family as we grow together as disciples.

Sincerely,

Donna Wenstrup