

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Department of Religious Education
580-237-0812—Parish Office
580-242-4449 extension 100—School building

WE ARE: SOLDIERS OF CHRIST.
The New Evangelization starts here!

First of all, I would like to thank all the catechists for a job-well-done in the classrooms. Our catechists are women and men, confirmed teenagers, parents, grandparents, singles, and religious. Catechists are not expert teachers or brilliant theologians. They are ordinary people, **just like you**, who generously volunteer their time to share our Catholic faith, values, and traditions with the youngest generation of Christians. They are positive role models who help children grow in faith and spirituality. **What an important ministry!** Their gift has tremendous value because through their words and actions, the message of Christ continues to spread throughout the world. If you would like to grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church, and deepen **your own** relationship with Jesus, then please become a catechist now!

The next group of people I would like to thank is the Advisory Council for Catechists—ACC. The council helps to ensure that policies are enacted by the Pastor and implemented by the Director of Religious Education. The Council also helps in many activities such as helping with the Christmas, Confirmation, and the catechist appreciation reception/dinner. Special thanks go to Regina York for co-teaching one of the Eucharistic seminars and Cynthia Williams for coming to the rescue to teach Kindergarten at a moment's notice. The Eucharistic Seminars helped parents of students receiving their First Communion become more aware of the teachings of the Church, and to help guide their children in the importance of having a close relationship with God through prayer, Sacred Scripture, Sacraments, and Christian coexistence or community.

Thank you to all the students for following the rules, most especially to the students receiving Sacraments of Initiation this year: First Communion and Confirmation. These students did exceptionally well considering that they come for only seventy-five minutes per week. The amount of information they are taught during that time is at times complicated and difficult to understand in a short period of time, but most of them come happily to listen to the Word of God through their catechists.

Thank you parents for actively participating in the religious life of your children and for wanting to have a life of prayer for your family. Please make sure to set aside some fifteen minutes to read the Bible and the catechism with your children. Make sure you are in a state of grace and going to confession regularly—confession is a backdrop to all the sacraments, and it's a necessity to be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist.

Thank you to all of you for helping me in this my first year of this important ministry of our church—Religious Education. My year started with Totus Tuus, continued with registering close to five hundred students in the religious education program, keeping up with mountains of paperwork, meetings, choir, and ended with one hundred six students receiving First Communion and thirty-seven students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you, Mrs. Brigitte Duran, Mrs. Natalie Ohnesorge, and Mr. Jamie Duran for helping me in the office—I am impressed with your willingness to donate your time and talent to this ministry. My sincere gratitude to the office staff and support personnel for their assistance in whatever I needed during the year. I thank Father Irwin for giving me the opportunity to do this religious work for our parish—what a blessing. Thank you, Mrs. Bea Parker, for guiding me this year. A huge thanks to Mr. Wade Laffey for advising me and mentoring me in times of difficulty, I am forever grateful to you Mr. Laffey! What a wonderful year this was. I am totally blessed doing this work for our Lord and I will continue doing it for as long as I can give my very best for the benefit of all involved.

Parents: Learning about God and the Church ends the day we die. Please make sure to enroll your children for religious education and Totus Tuus now.

Until next year! Blessings,
Miriam Day, DRE

First Communion will be celebrated during the first three weekends of May.

Please sign up your child for one of the Masses on the sheets outside the RE Office door. Thank you!



Register Now

Registrations for Religious Education for 2017-2018

By the time you receive this news you have received or are now receiving registration forms for the next school year. Please make sure to sign up your child as soon as possible as space in the classroom is limited. Thank you.

TOTUS TUUS June 25-30

You worked very hard by selling tickets and helping prepare the dinners back in January and February to bring a group of young adults to teach the Catholic faith to your children. It is time to enroll for Totus Tuus. Your child cannot miss this wonderful Summer program! Stop by the office to register.



**God is calling you.
Become a Catechist today**