

As the school year begins, we also look ahead to the beginning of the faith formation year for our students. All those who teach about Jesus by the way they live are catechists. It would be good to take a moment to remember all those who were instrumental in passing along the faith to you. For myself, I think of my family, but especially my grandfather who went to Mass every day, and I think of some of the spiritual experiences we shared together; I think of my confirmation sponsor (now, Deacon) Ron Adamczak who took me under his wing, my 8th grade teacher Mr. Michael Morcelle who challenged me to go deeper, and my religious emblems counselor Mrs. Koreen Scalfaro who encouraged me to explore the vocation God had in store for me. All these folks were instrumental to my faith journey as I was growing up. I also think of the great people I met in the seminary and at my parishes who helped me to continuously grow and have helped shape my relationship with God and my ministry in turn. Faith Formation is indeed lifelong, and I am still learning and growing. Who are those people for you?

I would like to acknowledge Dianne, Erica, and Maria for the amazing job they do in leading our faith formation programs and helping us all to grow in faith. Together with them are our catechists who so generously volunteer their time and energy for the education of our children. Thank you for your ministry! In fact, the catechists are having a retreat of their own this weekend (Sunday) to be enriched by God's blessing and help us prepare ourselves for the year ahead – Indeed, we are looking forward to another great year together. You should already have received an invitation for your children to one of our faith formation programs this year, but it's not too late to sign up.

Most importantly, the Church recognizes that parents and guardians are also catechists; they are the first and primary teachers of the faith for their children, preparing the soil and planting the first seeds of a relationship with Jesus. On catechetical Sunday later this month, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. Let us all rededicate ourselves to the mission of handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel as a community of faith.

Peace

~Fr. Luke