



Our Lady of HOPE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR SAVIO MENS GROUP: *Young Guys Committed to Faith, Fraternity, and Discernment*

As young men are formed in their faith and begin to ask big questions about their futures, having a brotherhood of other faithful young men can help them find answers in their faith. The Savio group, named for St. Dominic Savio, exists to help young men in sixth through 12th grade to grow in faith and fraternity as they begin to discern God's will for the rest of their lives.

Josh Wichman assists with Savio and serves as the point person for Washington area families. Through a combination of sports, games, fellowship, and prayer, Savio teaches young men how to balance their lives in a way that keeps Christ at the center.

"The overall goal of the group is to help these young men grow in brotherhood and faith," Josh says. "We want to help them find their vocation, whether it be the priesthood, fatherhood, diaconate, or however they are being called to serve."

Washington youth meet one Sunday a month with the Vincennes Savio group, led by Fr. Clint Johnson. Young men from any school are welcome to join for an evening that begins



with Mass at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and sports or games.

"After we are done playing games, there is a talk that encourages the kids to think deeper on their faith and helps them find their vocation in life," Josh says. "We end the meeting with evening prayer in church."

The covered topics are intended to challenge and uplift the young men. Josh has found that, as an adult, he also gains a lot from the meetings.

"Even though this program is to help kids and teenagers with their faith, it has also helped me grow in my own faith," he says.

Savio evenings give the young men plenty of time to learn from one another and grow in friendship. Occasionally, the group gets together for more fun activities, like paintball or ice skating. But they regularly begin and end with liturgy and prayer.

"Brotherhood and fraternity are both big parts of Savio," Josh says. "Young men attending and participating in Mass is an awesome experience that helps mold the brotherhood part of it. We intentionally start and end our Savio meetings in

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Nurturing Stewardship and Discipleship in Your Children as a New School Year Begins

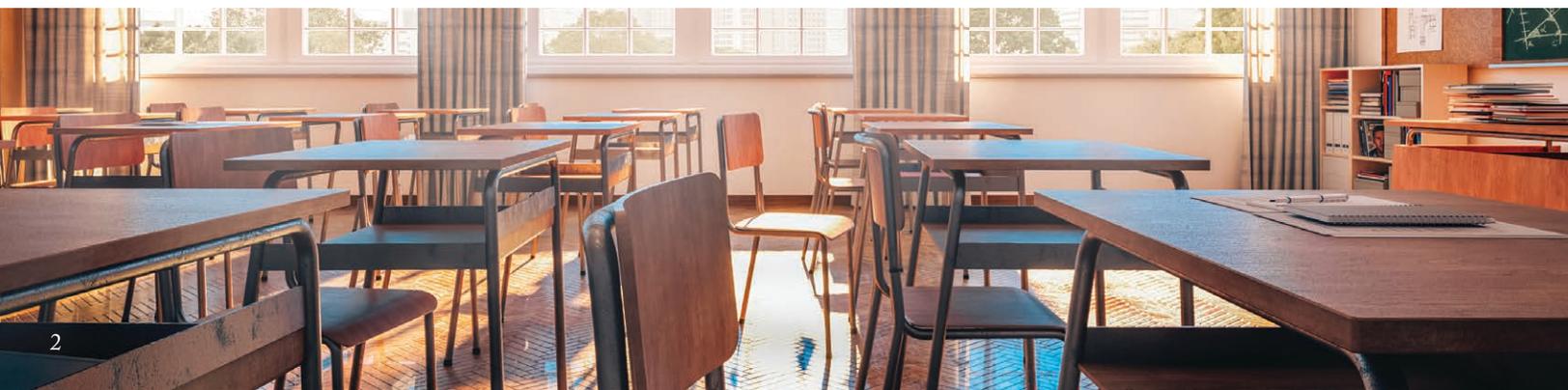


As parents, you play a vital role in instilling values and faith in your children's lives. With the start of a new school year in September, it's an excellent time to focus on teaching them about stewardship and discipleship, two core principles in the Catholic faith. Here are some practical ways to help your kids embrace these values as they embark on their educational journey.

- **Set a Christ-Centered Example:** Children learn by example, and it's crucial to model stewardship and discipleship in your own life. Show them how to be good stewards of your time, talents, and treasures by making time for family prayer, acts of service, and charitable giving. Let them see you living out your faith in meaningful ways.
- **Teach Gratitude:** Expressing gratitude is a fundamental aspect of stewardship. Encourage your children to start each day with a prayer of thanks for the opportunities the new school year brings. Help them recognize that their education is a gift from God, and it's essential to appreciate it.
- **Get Involved in Parish and Community Activities:** Engaging in parish and community service projects can be a great way to encourage stewardship. Participate as a family in volunteer opportunities, such as food drives, community clean-ups, or visiting the elderly. These experiences will teach your children the importance of giving back.
- **Support Their Talents and Interests:** Every child has unique talents and interests. Encourage your children to explore their passions and talents, whether it's art, music, sports, or academics. These pursuits can be a way to practice stewardship by sharing their talents with others and serving the community.

- **Nurture a Prayerful Life:** Help your children build a strong prayer life. Encourage them to pray for their teachers, classmates, and school staff. Regular family prayer times can help strengthen their relationship with God and guide them in discipleship.
- **Emphasize Kindness and Compassion:** Teach your children the importance of treating others with kindness and compassion. Share stories of Jesus' love and mercy and discuss how they can emulate His example in their interactions with peers and teachers.
- **Talk About Their Academic Responsibilities:** Discuss the importance of diligence and hard work in their studies. Explain that stewardship applies to their responsibilities as students, too. Encourage them to do their best, not just for their own benefit but to honor God and be good stewards of the opportunities they have been given.
- **Share Stories from the Bible:** The Bible is full of stories that illustrate stewardship and discipleship. Read and discuss these stories with your children. For instance, the story of the Good Samaritan emphasizes helping others, while the Parable of the Talents underscores using one's abilities for God's glory.

Incorporating these practices into your family life can help your children understand and embrace the values of stewardship and discipleship as they start a new school year. By fostering a strong connection between faith and everyday actions, you are laying a solid foundation for their spiritual growth and nurturing their sense of responsibility to God and others.



S T E W A R D S H I P

A Letter From Our Pastor

Save Room on Your Busy Schedules for Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

I don't know about you, but I still get a surge of adrenaline at the beginning of September. Even though I'm no longer in school, I feel a sense of anticipation when I see the shelves filled with brand-new notebooks, composition books, and all the assorted items students use. I'm aware once again of the great hopes, exciting dreams, and good intentions that a new school year holds.

Even for those parishioners not directly involved in school, September marks new beginnings. Labor Day traditionally marks the unofficial end of the season, and our calendars may reflect that. Many of you have calendars a lot like mine — they're full year-round with appointments and obligations. But even for us, things get busier in September as various organizations begin their regular round of meetings again.

Nevertheless, I have a request for you as you put together your upcoming schedules. First thing, please put in some time to share the talents God has given you. As you are aware, as Christian disciples — as stewards — we are called to return to God a portion of the Time, Talent, and Treasure He has entrusted to us. We should make our commitments to God when we begin our planning, so that we don't offer Him just the scraps of time and energy left over after everything else.

Make this September the month you make a



commitment to sing in the choir, including attending rehearsals. Or begin working with our parish religious education in one way or another. Or decide to launder altar linens once a month. Or volunteer to help in the parish office one morning a week. Or help care for the parish grounds. Or join a social service ministry. Or... well, you get the idea.

There are many ministries and groups within the parish where you can serve, and you'll find that you receive even as you give. Hardly anyone in the parish can't find at least one activity in

which they can participate, and which fits their schedule. If **you** aren't involved, make this September the month to change that.

Thinking about commitments, some people say they don't have time for prayer. Again, it's a matter of priorities, and I challenge any one of you to demonstrate to me that you can't pray at least one *Our Father*, one *Hail Mary*, and one *Glory Be* during the day. That's at least a beginning.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Ferguson

Fr. Paul Ferguson
Pastor

SUMMER

Thank you to everyone who joined us for j

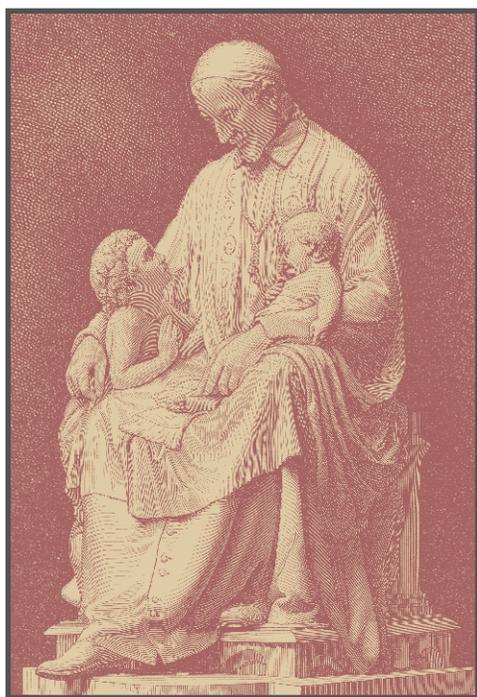


R SOCIAL

fun and fellowship at our Summer Social.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: *A Shining Example of Faith, Stewardship, and Discipleship*



St. Vincent de Paul, whose feast day is celebrated on Sept. 27, stands as a shining example of faith, stewardship, and discipleship in the Catholic Church. His life's work and enduring legacy continue to inspire Catholics around the world. As we commemorate his feast day, it's a fitting time to reflect on the importance of this remarkable saint.

St. Vincent de Paul was born in France in 1581 and went on to become a Catholic priest known for his extraordinary dedication to serving the poor and marginalized. He co-founded the Congregation of the

Mission, commonly known as the Vincentians, and the Daughters of Charity, a religious community of women dedicated to assisting those in need. His life was dedicated to serving Christ through service to the least fortunate in society.

One of the key aspects that make St. Vincent de Paul so significant in the Catholic Church is his unwavering commitment to the poor and the downtrodden. He viewed the face of Christ in those he served and saw it as a moral and spiritual imperative to provide for their needs. His tireless efforts in this regard exemplify the concept of stewardship — the responsible and generous use of God-given resources, both in terms of material wealth and the gifts of time and talent.

St. Vincent's works were not limited to mere charity, but extended to structural change. He advocated for social justice and systemically addressing the root causes of poverty. He believed in empowering those in need to help themselves, and his teachings and actions continue to guide Catholics in the pursuit of social justice and the betterment of society.

St. Vincent de Paul's life was a testament to the principles of discipleship. He recognized that following Christ meant walking in His footsteps, serving others with love and humility. He encouraged his followers

to approach their work with a spirit of service and a deep commitment to the Gospel's teachings. This commitment to discipleship became the cornerstone of the Vincentian tradition.

The Vincentian spirit remains vibrant today, with numerous organizations, charities, and Catholic communities worldwide inspired by St. Vincent de Paul's example. They continue his mission to serve the poor and marginalized, emphasizing the importance of faith, stewardship, and discipleship.

As we celebrate St. Vincent de Paul's feast day in September, we are reminded of his profound impact on the Catholic Church and society as a whole. He exemplified the true essence of faith by living out his beliefs through selfless service to others. He underscored the importance of stewardship by generously sharing his time, talent, and resources with the needy. His life serves as a model of discipleship, encouraging us to follow Christ's call to love and serve unconditionally.

In a world where poverty and inequality still exist, the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul remain as relevant as ever. His example inspires Catholics to be instruments of God's love, compassion, and justice in the world, continuing his legacy of faith, stewardship, and discipleship.



MEET OUR GREETERS!

Living Out the Pillar of Hospitality by Welcoming All Parishioners and Guests

We recognize the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship as Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. At Our Lady of Hope, the Greeter Ministry members work to fulfill that first pillar of Hospitality lovingly. After all, when we are visitors at a parish or have had a hectic morning getting everyone in the car, what could be better than a smiling face and someone welcoming us to church?

Fr. Paul Ferguson notes the importance of this ministry because it makes people feel welcome when they walk through the doors.

“That is the first impression a person gets when they walk through the door,” he says. “It’s hospitality. It’s trying to help people to realize that they’re welcome.”

While the ministry is blessed with a strong roster of greeters, more are always welcome. Some do this as a husband-and-wife team, and others bring their kids to help. Two people are scheduled to stand at the main doors at each Mass.

This ministry initially kicked off before the COVID-19 pandemic, but then had to be put on hiatus. It launched again post-pandemic and has been a good addition to our hospitality efforts at Our Lady of Hope.

One of the best parts of this ministry is that there are no meetings. There is a short training to help new greeters, but their role is simple — greet people and answer their questions, says Fr. Paul.

“The people who do this ministry enjoy it,” he says. “It allows them to catch up with people and maybe even meet new people.”

If you aren’t involved in a ministry, maybe the Greeter Ministry is a good place to start. It only requires you to come to Mass about 15 to 20 minutes early.

“This allows greeters to have that time to talk with

some people that they know, but haven’t seen for a long time,” Fr. Paul says.

As Fr. Paul points out, he particularly appreciates this ministry at Saturday evening Mass. He’s usually hearing confessions, so he can’t do his usual welcoming at the door — so the greeters are there with a smiling face when he can’t be.

Consider getting involved as a greeter. It’s a great way to give the parish and our Lord a little time.

“What a beautiful way to begin your day, as welcoming people, but also praising God,” Fr. Paul says.

Take it to prayer and consider whether the Greeter Ministry would be a good fit for you and your family.

“It’s not hard,” Fr. Paul says. “You just have to have a smile and say, ‘good morning’ or ‘welcome.’”



To become a greeter, call Fr. Paul Ferguson at 812-254-2883.

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Our Savio Group: *Young Guys Committed to Faith, Fraternity, and Discernment* *continued from front cover*

church. Starting our meeting with Mass and ending with an evening prayer helps the young men realize the importance of our faith.”

Josh encourages young men in the Washington area to consider coming to Savio.

“Savio can be a life-changing experience,” he says. “We have a great group of young men currently involved in our area. Please come, even for just one meeting. If you decide this isn’t for you, you aren’t committed to coming each time. Don’t be afraid to get out of your comfort zone. I am sure if you come once, you will want to keep coming back.”

“Brotherhood and fraternity are both big parts of Savio. Young men attending and participating in Mass is an awesome experience that helps mold the brotherhood part of it.”

— *Josh Wichman*

The Savio group meets at Our Lady of Hope or Washington Catholic Schools and takes a bus to Vincennes. Contact Josh Wichman at 812-617-1436 for more information.

