



Holy Mother of Consolation Catholic Church
FAITH FORMATION

651 North Main Street, Oregon, WI, 53575 • holymotherchurch.weconnect.com
Director of Faith Formation PK-3-Grade 6: 608-835-5764, ext. 114, • Youth Minister: 608-835-5764, ext. 125

January 8, 2014

Dear HMC Parents,

You are receiving this letter because **during the week of March 30th, HMC will be administering a national assessment test of Catholic knowledge and concepts.** This test is called the National Catholic Education Association Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (NCEA ACRE) and is the religious equivalent of Wisconsin's WKCE or the national SAT test. Every parish in the Diocese of Madison is required to administer the test to the following grades:

- 5th Grade** (Level 1 Assessment)
- 8th Grade** (Level 2 Assessment)
- Confirmation 2** (Level 3 Assessment)

The testing dates for Grades 8 and Confirmation 2 that week are as follows, during class time:

Sunday Classes: **March 30th** (PLEASE NOTE: This is the Sunday after Spring Break.)

Wednesday Classes: **April 2nd** (Students still on break on March 30th can test on this day, if needed.)

This ACRE assessment is designed to give us information for evaluating and planning our religious-education programs. The results of ACRE will provide an overall picture of the effectiveness of our parish's efforts to teach the basics of Catholic Christian faith. It will help us assess our students' grasp of Catholic teachings as well as help us better understand their personal beliefs, attitudes, religious practices, and perceptions. Like parishes everywhere, we expect to use such information to help improve the scope of our current program.

Once our students' ACRE results have been tabulated and returned from NCEA's national office, we hope to make available a summary of test results for our parish. Additionally, we would be pleased to discuss the results with any interested parent upon request.

One final note: While we want and expect HMC students to take the ACRE assessment seriously—and while it IS a requirement to take the assessment test—please realize that your son or daughter will not be penalized based on test results. For instance, there's no such thing as a "failing grade" that would cause them to repeat a class or be denied the Sacrament of Confirmation. That is not the purpose of this assessment.

Questions? Concerns? Please feel free to be in touch with me. Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at: <http://www.madisondiocese.org/Ministry/EvangelizationandCatechesis/ParishCatecheticalLeaders/NCEAACREAssessment.aspx>

PS: A study guide has been distributed to your son or daughter that will help them to review the faith-based terms and concepts that will be tested in Level 2 (Grade 8) and Level 3 (Confirmation 2). We hope to do some review in class, but it would also help if students could review these at home. Proper definitions would be as described in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*—though some would also be in their current (and past) faith-formation textbooks.

Blessings to you and yours,

Mary Lynn Hendrickson,
Director of Faith Formation – Grades 7-12