



Church of Saint Henry

June 2019

Gifts of Treasure

How your Sunday offering supports . . .

Faith Formation

By Dan Dupay, Parish Administrator

What does the future hold for our parish and what does it look like? I firmly believe the future of our Catholic Faith is our children (our young disciples). If you'd like a glimpse this bright and bustling future, I invite you to imagine our faith formation program. Many of you do not need to imagine, as you are already sharing your faith with the future of our parish, however, if you have not experienced the amazing life here on Wednesday evenings, I offer the same words Jesus spoke to the Apostle Andrew... "Come and see."

***Disciple:
A fully devoted
follower of Jesus
Christ. Discipleship is
an apprenticeship,
not a program.***

Actually, we have 3 separate sessions (3:55pm, 6pm and 7:15pm) each Wednesday night that wraps up at 8:30pm. It is remarkable to imagine about 4 hours of sharing the gospel through relationships and encounter (evangelization) here at the Church of Saint Henry each Wednesday during the school year. This is the same humble and joyful approach our Lord used to grow the faith through trust in God and others.



What does it take to make this happen? LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS!! There are **85** mentors who give multiple hours of their lives every week to share our Catholic Faith with these young disciples. It is true that formation of our

***Jesus valued
friendship,
relationship and
encounter.***

young disciples would not exist without the outpouring support from these marvelous volunteers. In addition, the financial costs that go into forming the future of our church involve

expenses such as textbooks, classroom supplies, family night speakers, training retreats for the mentors, buses and of course the wages for our very dedicated directors, Jessica Soden and Jenna Leighton. The average per child cost of

Continued on back



The Faith Formation program of the Church of Saint Henry reaches an average of over 400 young disciples each year ranging in ages from Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. We have 16 classrooms available plus our gathering space to host our young disciples. If you are doing the math for space like I would be, you are asking, "Are there really 25 children per classroom?"

How Your Gifts of Treasure Support Faith Formation

We do not collect an average of \$220 per disciple per year. The average tuition is \$75 per disciple per year. Should we collect more? Would you consider paying \$220 per child? Well, we might be paying that per child to play soccer each summer, hockey each winter or even more to send them to camp. Would we consider paying for our neighbor's children to play soccer? Most



likely not. Should we consider supporting our neighbors and their children in experiencing and learning our faith through evangelization and teaching the catechism? Absolutely. **AND YOU ARE!!**

Over the last few years, we've found our numbers improve both in attendance and financially (tuition paid) when the price is at the \$75 average. Prior to the current pricing structure, we had good attendance, but the tuition was heavy for many families with multiple



disciples attending our programs. After we adjusted the pricing, we have seen growth in attendance with new families and some that return to the program.

Our young vibrant disciples illustrate the promise of the future of our parish. Your support of the Sunday Offering makes up the approximately \$58,000 difference in our faith formation income compared to the financial need to form a young disciple. I wish to thank you so



much for understanding the importance of this need to share our Catholic faith with the precious ones the Lord has blessed us to nurture within our parish family.

A mother recently remarked, "Thank you Jenna and Faith Formation Staff. This past Wednesday three of my children (5th-8th grade) came home from school and asked if they could attend the evening's The Fysh Bowl event! My 8th grader even chose to forego his 8th Grade Awards Night to attend. I love their excitement, knowledge and friendships that they are building."

Thank you so much for your Sunday contribution to our Faith Formation program among the many activities here at the Church of Saint Henry. Your stewardship enables our young disciples to grow in their knowledge of Jesus and how to live out the gospel!

