

Nov. 30th , 2020

Greetings 8th grade parents,

As I write this, I pray that you and your families are healthy and doing well.

I'm writing to update you on some changes in the Confirmation Prep of your 8th grader. We talked in our parent meeting, earlier this year, that this process was going to be an unknown. Not knowing then what would happen in those coming months and how the schedule and plans could change at any moment, depending on the circumstances.

I feel some of those circumstances have come about. With the recent spike of Covid cases in Jefferson County and still not seeing an end to this pandemic, we are redirecting how we will handle our Confirmation Prep this year. My first priority is the safety and health of your child and your family. I don't think it is responsible for me to ask you to go out into the community for service experiences. I also don't feel I can ask everyone to come together in person, for a face to face retreat.

Confirmation prep and retreat is probably my favorite part of my ministry. So believe me when I say that this was a very difficult decision for me. But we will make this a fruitful and spiritual journey despite the change.

First of all, **service experiences** will remain as stated in the Passport journal. Choose one experience to engage in with your sponsor. Choose one experience to engage in with your family. Choose one experience to engage in with your peers.

The experiences themselves will be a little different. I want to emphasize that you will be choosing your experiences. I'm going to list some ideas for you, in this odd time, but I want you to choose something that interests you or that you want to learn about. And by all means, if you think of something not on this list, even better! I do ask that you approve it with me first though.

So that is three experiences. I will say that I may add a group one in the new year if things settle down, so we can do something together, but don't worry about that right now. That will be separate.

Fill out your journals as you normally would when you've done the service. You can have your sponsor or parent sign them, unless you go to an organization.

One last thing, in the back of your Passport, it talks about researching and writing about one of the listed international organizations. You still need to do that. I would like that turned in on a separate piece of paper, typed, one page.

Your service experience should connect to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy: Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, pray for the living and the dead.

VISIT THE SICK - Pen pal to a parish homebound person or nursing home is excellent service. Builds relationship. And the relationship can be two-way. This should go on through March.

PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD - create a prayer list and commit to daily prayer for them through March. Take this opportunity to learn about prayer options - rosary, adoration, etc. And certainly as we

have funerals you can prepare cards and send them to the family having the funeral. This should be done through March.

FEED THE HUNGRY, GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY, CLOTHE THE NAKED: I am aware that St. Vincent de Paul needs volunteers as well as Sister Visitor. If you're comfortable, contact them to see if they are taking volunteers in a covid safe way.

INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT, COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL, ADMONISH SINNERS – Connect with a 2nd grader preparing for 1st Communion. Keep contact with them. Offer encouragement. Pray with them. Talk with them about any questions or concerns they have. Attend, if possible, their First Communion. Offer tutoring to someone in need

These are just a few ideas to give you some direction. The important thing is to know why you are doing whatever it is you are doing, how is what you're doing helpful and how does it make you feel or the person you're helping feel.

For our **Confirmation retreat** this year, we are going to do a virtual retreat. You will get details later, but the dates available are the same, ***January 9th and January 16th***. You will receive in an email a Signup Genius, where you can sign up for the date you want. I will tell you however, there will be a cap on the number of students on each day, to keep it balanced. You will also receive, by email, more details about the retreat. I really just wanted you to be able to confirm the dates.

So far, that is all that is changing. We are still scheduled to have our Confirmation days on March 7th at 2pm (Holy Trinity) and March 14 at 4:30pm (Holy Name). I will let you know if anything else comes up as soon as I can.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout all of this. We will make this as wonderful and memorable as we can for you and your child. Check your email, for upcoming details.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. We'll get through this together!

Please know, you and your families are in my prayers.

God Bless

Curt Meyers