Holy Family Parish Faith Formation
Religious Education Class Gatherings

Volunteer Title: Small Group Leader (Middle School)

Objective: Provide students with meaningful adults who can get to know the students and be positive role models for them. Like Jesus Christ on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), we evangelize through relationship building and modeling living the faith in our everyday lives.

Description/Responsibilities: You have the primary responsibility of working with your small group of students, including **attendance, discipline, communication with home, and other issues** that may arise. You are responsible for the supervision of these students (they are your "class"). However, y*ou are not expected to prepare curriculum - that is the role of the lead teacher.*

Your role as a small group leader is to lead and facilitate discussion and activities that happen during the Religious Education class gatherings. The lead teacher will be responsible for presenting content and leading activities. Your role will be to **assist** the activities, and **facilitate** discussion and participation within your small group. By participating in the activities and discussion, you model for the students how to live our Catholic faith in daily life.

Kids today need to be connected to positive adult role models. They may have many "Facebook friends" but few who will model what it means to be a person of faith today. *Get to know your kids well* by talking with them before and after the gatherings. Ask them about their interests, activities, and goals.

All Religious Education volunteers are expected to abide by the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct and Faith Formation Handbook.

Time Commitment: Attend all Religious Education Class Gatherings (15 per year). *Please make a point of arriving early, before each of the gathering sessions begin, to welcome and greet your students.* Please contact your co-group leader as well as the Coordinator if you will be absent.

Training & Support: There will be one training meeting in September, specifically for small group leaders. Small group leaders are invited, but not expected, to attend meetings for catechists/lead teachers.

Please see reverse side for additional information…

Qualifications: An ability to follow directions as given by lead teacher is essential, since you are following their lead. A willingness to engage students in conversations about faith and life is also important.

All volunteers with Holy Family Faith Formation programs are expected to have an annual CORI (background check) on file, as well as have completed the *Protecting God's Children* (Virtus) program.

Supervision: All volunteers in Holy Family's Religious Education program report directly to the Coordinator of Faith Formation.

Communication: Primarily through e-mail

A Good Middle School Small Group Leader:

- ✓ Knows their students well - names, personalities, with a sense of their moral and spiritual maturity; knows their interests
- ✓ Is aware of the varied and changing needs of young adolescents, including their inconsistent behavior and maturity
- ✓ Facilitates the discussion among the students, participating when necessary; encourages participation by all the students
- ✓ Challenges students to take the faith seriously, to engage the material, and to ask challenging questions
- ✓ Is involved in the activities alongside the students, modeling good participation
- ✓ Is supportive of the lead teacher; is focused on the lead teacher when they are speaking (modeling) and keeping the students focused as well
- ✓ Works with their co-leader to manage their group conscientiously
- ✓ Helps the students stay focused on the activity or discussion at hand, minimizes disruptions, and participates as well
- ✓ Moves around the group as needed, making sure to help students who need help, and be near students who need the adult presence to help them behave
- ✓ Encourages and challenges the students to grow in their faith
- ✓ Provides feedback about particular activities and the program in general, as asked for by the lead teacher
- ✓ Notices things / offers suggestions for improvements and reports them to the Coordinator of Faith Formation