



church of the beloved disciple

living in faith together

August 15, 2018

Brothers and Sisters,

I certainly hope your summer has been enjoyable and that all of you were able to enjoy family time together.

I wanted to write to you first to thank all of you who took the time to respond to our LIFT survey. Generally speaking, we were encouraged by the results and have taken into account some of the suggestions you have made. Please bear in mind that this was our first year, and that there are items that we need to "fine tune."

Second, I want to make some observations about some of the comments made in the survey in the hopes that you will have some greater clarity:

1. LIFT is meant to support what is done at home. The parish is not the first place to learn about faith; it is in the home, the first Church. This means it is vital for families to avail themselves of the "take home" materials. LIFT sessions are not meant to take the place of home instruction. In fact, the Church is very clear that parents ought not give this responsibility to the parish.
2. In fact, one of the goals of LIFT is to strengthen the faith of families and individuals at home.
3. We are part of a community of faith. LIFT is meant to gather the community together and celebrate our common identity in Christ. LIFT also relies upon the generations coming together and relying on one another's gifts and experiences.
4. LIFT emanates from our experience of Jesus in Eucharist and comes back to it. We are a community assembled around the table as the source and summit our lives.
5. LIFT is not one year, but is a six year cycle that is connected: Liturgical Year, Prayer, Sacraments, Justice, Creed, and Morality - a seamless garment that is connected.
6. LIFT is not simply what we do on Sunday and Tuesday but has connected components: community (share a meal); catechesis; follow up at home; and, intergenerational conversation.
7. All of the other events that we do at the Church are all connected.
8. We do not prefer one spirituality over the other; if something is approved by the Church then it is acceptable.

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9. Every person's faith journey is different. We cannot fault others or look down on others because their path is different than our own. We are all the Body of Christ and the holy faithful People of God; no one is less than another.
10. Christian faith is not an achievement but a gift, the assurance of God's faithful love embodied in the person, mission, and ministry of Jesus. Faith is at once personal (God loves and redeems me) and communal (God loves and redeems the whole world).
11. LIFT asks us to reflect upon our own experience of Jesus, then bring that to enrich the community of faith.

I ask that you keep all these things in mind as we begin another experience of LIFT and that we all pray that the Spirit guide us always.

Lots of hope,

Rev. Michael Allison

Fr. Mike