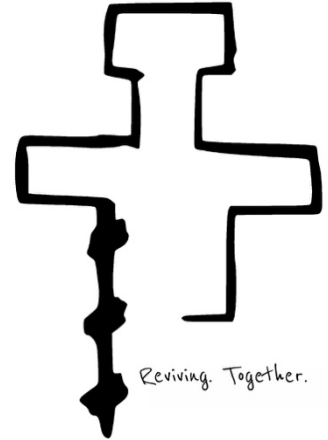


28 July 2021

Dear Parents (Guardians),

Looking back at religious education during the pandemic, we encountered many challenges. While our program was far from perfect it did bring us a few blessings:

1. We found **strength** in numbers through combining the programs of all three of the Franciscan parishes in the area.
2. Parents (Guardians) and their children opened their **hearts** to one another during the lessons.
3. All who participated opened their **minds** to Catholic Social Teaching & the liturgy, which are too often overlooked.



So, despite Covid-related frustrations, together we found a way to live the Gospel by loving God and neighbor, with all our **strength, hearts, and minds**. (Luke 10:27).

This coming year's program will see a return to in-person sessions held on Sundays from 9:45am – 10:45am at the Our Lady of Hope Parish Center.*

Mindful that you as parents/guardians are the primary educators of your children in the faith, we will also offer monthly parent sessions for your spiritual enrichment. These sessions will be held in church during the time of regularly scheduled religious education classes.

For now, we ask that you please complete the registration form and return it with the requested fee as soon as possible, by dropping it in the weekend collection basket in any of our three churches or leaving it in the locked mailbox outside of the Our Lady of Hope parish office entrance at 863 W. Chestnut St.

We will be having a parent/guardian information session on Sunday 29 August from 9:45am – 10:45am. Volunteers will be present to watch any children who might accompany you. This will also be the last time to register before classes begin. ***If you have any questions, please contact Rose Zawalick at 570-648-4432 ex.102***

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, may we all be inspired by the prayer of Mother Cabrini,

"Stretch every fiber of my being, dear Lord, that I may more easily fly towards you. May your Spirit, which once breathed over the chaos of the earth, give life to all the powers of my soul".

Peace & Goodness,

The Friars & Religious Education Team

Fr. Martin, Fr. Mike, Fr. Tim, Judy Surak, Sam Nicola, & Rose Zawalick

*Mother Cabrini Church has moved its 9am Sunday Mass to 8:45am, beginning in September. This will allow sufficient time for those who chose to attend this Mass, to cross town for religious education.