



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Faith Formation Catechists Continue to Learn as They Teach About the Faith

It has been said that there is no better way to learn, than to teach. And it can be easy to see teachers as the “experts” – but in many cases, the student and the educator journey together, both learning along the way. For those who serve our parish as Faith Formation catechists, this is their story – learning and growing closer to God as they walk alongside the children of our parish.

Debbie Cagnina has served as a Faith Formation catechist for the past 16 years. With the exception of a short time when she helped parents preparing for the Baptism of their children, she has spent nearly all of her time with her favorite group, the kindergartners.

“When I first started, I didn’t have any experience and my daughter was in kindergarten,” Debbie says.

“I was an aide and I figured, ‘Well, the kindergartners couldn’t possibly know more about my faith than I do!’” she adds, laughing.

As she has served over the years, Debbie has found that not only has she helped



Debbie Cagnina has served as a catechist sharing the faith with the kindergartners for the past 16 years.

children learn about their faith, but also her own relationship with God has deepened.

“One of the biggest changes for me has been the realization that I have far more to learn,” Debbie says. “Being active in teaching has given me a strong desire to also be active in learning.

continued on page 2

September 2017

In this Issue

- 3 Save Room on Your Busy Schedules for Stewardship
- 4 Not Just Any Summer Camp: Youth Enjoyed Opportunity to Share in Fun and Faith
- 6 Setting an Example of Stewardship for Our Children
- 7 Bellarmine Hall Provides a Faith Community for USF Students

17512 Lakeshore Rd
Lutz, FL 33558
www.sainttims.org



Faith Formation Catechists Continue to Learn as They Teach About the Faith *continued from front cover*

“I hope the children come away knowing that there is so much more for them to learn about God and this beautiful world that we live in. I hope they have an eagerness and an interest to come back. You’re planting those seeds of faith, and year by year, they’re going to grow. You see them start to connect the dots, you start to see them put it together.” – Debbie Cagnina

“Every year I go, there is something new and something different and I learn more,” she adds. “I’m definitely more prayerful.”

Working with some of the youngest of our parish community, Debbie is grateful for the chance to be part of their early encounters with God and does everything she can to ensure that the experience is an enjoyable one.

“They’re very new to the faith, so it’s fun to introduce them to things,” Debbie says. “My biggest thing is to always have fun with them – every class, we try to do something that’s really fun. We sing, we act out plays, we always color, sometimes we paint, there’s lots of movement.

“I want them to want to come back and always think of it as being fun - I am thrilled when the parents tell me their child said, 'I cant wait to go to church school!'”

Debbie hopes that as they attend Faith Formation classes, not only will children learn about God and their faith, but they’ll also want to learn more.

“I hope the children come away knowing that there is so much more for them to learn about God and this beautiful world that we live in,” she says. “I hope they

have an eagerness and an interest to come back. You’re planting those seeds of faith, and year by year, they’re going to grow. You see them start to connect the dots, you start to see them put it together.”

According to Debbie, the role of the catechist is one of teaching by example, and supporting the work that the parents do to share the faith at home.

“Everyone needs role models,” she says. “It’s important for them to see other people in their lives and know you’re not the only ones that go to church.”

Above all, Debbie hopes that children leave her class, having gained relationships – both with God and with the people they got to know throughout the year.

“Every class I try to make a connection between them and God,” she says. “I just want them to feel love and to know they are loved by me and by God and by everyone involved in our classroom.”

Debbie encourages other parishioners to consider serving as a Faith Formation catechist.

“It definitely does help you to grow in your own faith,” she says. “You get as much out of it as you put into it. It’s very rewarding. All you really need is a love of the Lord and the rest will come. He’s got your back!”

For more information on becoming a Faith Formation catechist or classroom aide, please contact Peggy Cloutier, our Director of Faith Formation, at peggy.cloutier@sainttims.org or 813-961-1716.

Save Room on Your Busy Schedules for Stewardship

Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't know about you, but I still get a surge of adrenalin as the beginning of September approaches. Even though I'm no longer in school, I feel a sense of anticipation when I see the shelves filled with brand-new notebooks, composition books, and all the assorted items students use. I'm aware once again of the great hopes, exciting dreams, and good intentions that a new school year holds.

Even for those parishioners not directly involved in school, September marks new beginnings. Labor Day traditionally marks the unofficial end of the summer vacation season, and our calendars may reflect that. Many of you have calendars a lot like mine — they're full year-round with appointments and obligations. But even for us, things get busier in September as various organizations that took a break during summer begin their regular round of meetings again.

Nevertheless, I have a request for you as you fill up your fall schedules. First thing, please put in some time to share the talents God has given you. As you are aware, as Christian disciples — as stewards — we are called to return to God a portion of the Time, Talent, and Treasure He has entrusted to us. We should make our commitments to God when we begin our planning, so that we don't offer Him just the scraps of time and energy left over after everything else.



Make this September the month you make a commitment to sing in the choir, including attending rehearsals. Or begin working with our parish religious education in one way or another. Or decide to launder altar linens once a month. Or volunteer to help in the parish office one morning a week. Or help care for the parish grounds. Or join the Knights of Columbus. Or join a social service ministry. Or... well, you get the idea.

There are many ministries and groups within the parish where you can serve, and you'll find that you receive even as you give. Hardly anyone in the parish can't find at least one activity in which they can participate and which fits their schedule. If you aren't involved, make this September the month to change that.

Thinking about commitments, some people say they don't have Time for prayer. Again, it's a matter of priorities, and I challenge any one of you to demonstrate to me that you can't pray at least one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be during the course of the day. That's at least a beginning.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is written over a light blue background that appears to be a scan of a document or envelope.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley



Not Just Any Summer Opportunity to Share



Youth at Covecrest learn teamwork through high and low ropes activities.

Envision the scene – 250 teenagers who just celebrated Mass together are now kneeling in prayer before the Eucharist, exposed in a monstrance.

It was just hours before, that these same teenagers were enjoying all the fun things that summer camp has to offer – ropes courses, a mud pit, crazy games, and even white water rafting. But now, they're gathered together in prayer, many of them with arms outstretched, singing praises to God.

For the past six summers, our youth ministry program at St. Timothy has brought a group of high school-aged teens to Covecrest, Life Teen's summer camp, located in Tiger, Ga., for the experience of a lifetime. This year, a group of 36 young people and adult volunteers boarded a bus for the eight-hour drive to spend the week of July 31 through Aug. 5, at camp.

And while Covecrest boasts all the excitement and fun of a typical summer camp, it's all done with a greater purpose in mind, leading teens closer to Christ. And while every day is jam-packed with fun, there are also plenty of opportunities to learn and talk about the faith, pray, read Scripture, and receive the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist.

Jen Linder, our Youth Ministry Coordinator, has attended with our group for the past five years, and found it to be an amazing experience to witness.

"The best is when you have the kid who doesn't want to go," Jen says. "We get them on the bus and their arms are crossed, their headphones are in, and they're totally disconnected and they don't want to participate. But then, we arrive and there's a bonfire and music, and it's fun. Then, you start seeing them participate in Mass and adoration, their arms are open, they're singing. It's really a beautiful experience – you see the kids open a little more each day. Usually by Wednesday, they're on fire and their hearts are open."

This week at camp provides a much-needed respite from technology, especially their cell phones. Having time in silence gives them a chance to be open to hearing God's voice.

"You feel like you're away from everything and you're in a beautiful place – it's very God-centered," Jen says. "You're not distracted and there's no interruption. It's nice to disconnect and watch them transition through the week, to see them become closer to God."

Not only do teens grow in their relationship with God throughout the week, but they also build deeper friendships with one another.

"You see bonding with teens who might not normally connect with each other," Jen says. "It's one of those experiences where they really become brothers and sisters in Christ."



Our youth benefit from the opportunity to have a fun camp experience and grow spiritually with other Catholic young people.

Camp: Youth Enjoyed Time in Fun and Faith



Teens who attend camp together learn what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

They're also encouraged by meeting other Catholic young people who have traveled from all around the country for this experience.

"Two hundred and fifty kids together, praising God, and watching college missionaries giving their summer [to work at camp], coming to serve these high school kids – it reassures their sense of, 'I belong to something even greater than just my parish,'" Jen says.

Our youth ministers and youth would like to extend their gratitude to all of our parishioners who helped support our young people, making this experience possible. The cost to attend camp was \$700 per person, and the young people fundraise throughout the year to cover the expense.

"We so appreciate them," Jen says. "Our parishioners are always so supportive, they always go above and beyond to help and support us and they're so faithful. Their prayers mean so much. These teens come back with a new light. It's a beautiful transformation – it definitely sends a spark into our parish and our youth group."



Messy games and the mud pit are just part of what makes Covecrest such a memorable experience.



Our parish youth are grateful for the support of parishioners, both through prayer and in their fundraising efforts.

For more information on Covecrest and Life Teen's new middle school camp, Hidden Lake, please contact Jen Linder at jen.linder@sainttims.org or 813-968-1077, ext. 240, or Justin Lantz at justin.lantz@sainttims.org or 813-968-1077, ext. 232. Registration for summer 2018 will begin in September, so if your teen is interested in attending Camp Covecrest or Hidden Lake, don't wait! There is a \$150 deposit required at the time of registration.



Setting an Example of Stewardship for Our Children

As we strive to live as grateful stewards, we must remember that each of us has a responsibility to help our youngest parishioners learn what it means to live as a disciple of Christ. Jesus Himself told the disciples, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Mt 19:14). Christ wants children to grow closer to Him and to become His disciples, and parents are responsible for helping to lead their children to this end. The Rite of Baptism reminds us that parents are “the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith.”

An important part of faith involves living a life of stewardship, as the proper response of a Christian disciple. So, it follows that parents bear a great responsibility that comes from Christ Himself to raise their children as grateful stewards. However, it may already be difficult for adults to grasp the concept of stewardship and put it into practice in their own lives. How can parents teach their children to do the same?

First and foremost, parents can teach stewardship by setting a good example. Indeed, the example of our lives is so powerful that it can and should be a witness to the Gospel. As parents live the life of stewardship, their children will see the beauty in the stewardship way of life, and they are bound to follow suit. If parents live in thanksgiving to God for all He has given them, their children will grow to see that all we have is a gift from God. And when parents offer gratitude to God, it will surely impact their children.

Eight-year-old Suzie has watched her dad serve Communion at Sunday Masses throughout her young life. When asked why she thinks he does this, she responds, “We need to help the priest.”

Meanwhile, her older sister, Jane, responds to the same question by explaining, “We need to serve God. He does so much for us. We should appreciate it and give back to Him.”

It is clear that by witnessing their dad’s example, the girls are beginning to understand – each in her



own way – that the life of a Christian disciple involves selfless service in gratitude to God. However, it is not just their father’s example that has helped them develop this understanding. Both their father and their mother emphasize stewardship as a family practice. They spend time in family prayer, serve at the soup kitchen together, bring up the offertory as a family, and participate in other acts of service. Such involved participation in the faithful life allows the girls to bear witness to the power of serving others in thanksgiving, even at their young ages.

“We need to help other people,” Suzie says. “Jesus wants us to put other people first, and if we want to listen to Him, we need to serve others.”

As Suzie’s statement demonstrates, the stewardship way of life is not only understood or lived out by adults – Jesus wants children to be His disciples, as well. So, it is essential that parents help their children develop a true understanding of stewardship, and encourage its practice through the example of an active faith life.

May all Christian parents be not only the first, but also the best teachers of faith to their children, in what they say *and* in what they do.

Bellarmino Hall Provides a Faith Community for USF Students



The college years are a wonderful time of learning and growth for young adults. However, it can also be easy for college-bound Catholics to lose sight of their faith while immersed in secular campus culture. By providing faith-based housing options, the Newman Student Housing Fund works to create a positive community of faith for Catholic college students across the country. On Aug. 15, St. Robert Bellarmino Hall opened its doors to students at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

One of Newman Student Housing's nine faith-based properties across the U.S., Bellarmino Hall is a safe place for students to express their faith openly within a secular campus environment.

"Community living fosters common faith," says USF senior and Catholic Student Union President Ashlie O'Brien. "God didn't create man to be alone, so it's nice to have a solid community to depend on – people that you can trust, that you can go to if you have a problem, and that you can have fun with. Especially for freshmen who are going from living with parents to living on their own, it can help the transition. You're there with people who share the same faith and have the same values. I wish I had that when I first started at college!"

"In a time where many big life decisions are being made, it is critical that your faith remain at the



forefront," says building manager Matt Zerrusen. "These lifelong decisions shouldn't be made without giving God His due. Bellarmino Hall promotes and fosters this type of environment."

Bellarmino Hall's application process is done through an online system, which allows access for non-local students as well as parents and guarantors. While the hall is a co-ed residence, the units themselves are single-gender occupancy, and the floors will be single-gender whenever possible. (Notable exceptions are in the case of a married couple or siblings, who are permitted to live together in the units.) The residence hall is located on the same property



SAINT TIMOTHY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

17512 Lakeshore Road
Lutz, FL 33558
813-968-1077
www.sainttims.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Tampa, FL
Permit No. 3311

Bellarmino Hall Provides a Faith Community for USF Students

continued from page 7

as the Catholic Student Center, which serves the Catholic community at USF.

“We really worked on reinforcing and promoting our campus ministry before starting to build the hall, so that we could establish a foundational community,” Ashlie says. “This is a safe place to foster our own faith, as well as a place to introduce people to the Catholic faith. It’s important to grow in faith as a community, and we will have community-wide events and activities here at the hall.”

“We offer faith-based initiatives through the Catholic Student Center which are entirely optional to the students,” Matt says. “We also offer services opportunities and many different opportunities for fellowship. We are a family atmosphere where everyone knows your name.”

Ashlie studies public health, and hopes to become a physician assistant – one of her long-term goals is to do

medical mission work in developing countries. With this in mind, she notes how while we are called to make disciples of all nations, we also need a place to come home to renew our faith.

“Christ went out and proclaimed to the nations, but He always came back to His disciples, in order to be filled and go out again,” she says. “As students, Bellarmino Hall gives us a place to come home and be filled again. To be able to come back and share and witness with everyone in our community is really important. So when I go out and am challenged during the day, I’m looking forward to coming home and being with like-minded people who are having the same experiences as I am.”

“[Our students] are interested in a higher purpose,” Matt says. “They choose to stay with us in order to become a better person, not just a better student.”

If you would like more information about Bellarmino Hall, please visit www.bellarminohall.com, or check out the Bellarmino Hall Facebook page.

• **Mass Schedule** •

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. • Daily: Mon-Sat 9 a.m., Wed 6:15 p.m. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.