

CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

We are all familiar with terms like Religious Education or CCD, Sacramental Preparation or Catechism Class. We've used them for years! Unfortunately, they all fall far short of what is intended. We have for too long been bound into the mentality that faith is delegated to specialists in classrooms with books.

Believing parents, with their daily examples of life, have the most effective capacity to transmit the beauty of the Christian faith to their children.

To achieve that, we must make a greater effort at evangelization and catechesis – what we believe - inside the family! The Church desires to cooperate with parents to assist them in fulfilling their calling to become the first teachers of their own children.

The intention of all learning, whether for children or adults, is to enable a living encounter with Christ. Pope John Paul II tells us the aim is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and enable us to share in the life of the Holy Trinity.

The encounter with Christ involves the person in his or her totality: heart, mind, senses. It does not concern only the mind, but also the body and above all the heart, all involved in forming patterns of Christian living from the very small to the very old.

Catechesis does not have a single method but uses our experience, language, stories and music as vehicles of faith. We are participants, not passive bystanders! We want to move past merely dispensing religious information to being animated by the Gospel spirit, accompanying each other as we learn and interact in community to bring the Kingdom of God to the world.

The pandemic has turned everything upside down but has also enabled the realization that we need more. As we work through rebuilding, please know that you are welcome here and we would love to walk with you on your faith journey! Whatever you are here for, whatever called you and kept you reading until now, we hope you will want to learn more and to participate in the life of Christ at St. Elizabeth parish. Please call and introduce yourself! You are welcome here.

Ms. Lawson Hunsicker
Director of Faith Formation
religioused.lawson@gmail.com
706-302-0165

