

May 28, 2008

Dear Middle School Parents,

We pray this letter finds you doing well and enjoying the blessed season of spring. As each year of Religious Education classes begins anew at Holy Spirit Catholic Community, we try to make improvements to the program based on parent and student feedback and ongoing evaluation. This year we have an exciting change to announce – taking effect for the 2008-2009 RE calendar year – which we hope will enhance the faith formation experience of all involved and ease the RE class placement process:

Current sixth and seventh grade RE classes will have the option of staying together for the upcoming RE year. Current eighth grade classes will have the option of staying together for Confirmation Formation which is a two-year process.

This is a change in policy from previous years. Among the advantages we hope to realize are the following:

- Placement is made easier for a number of parents/students.
- A deeper sense of community/trust develops in the classes because they ‘journey together’ for a longer period of time.
- After the first year, classes can ‘hit the ground running’ instead of spending time in the ‘getting to know each other’ phase.
- Parents of the students in the class have a greater familiarity and comfort with the catechist and can be more supportive of the efforts of the catechist.

More specifically, the following guidelines will help in the implementation of this policy:

If your child was in a sixth, seventh or eighth grade RE class for the 2007-2008 RE year, we are offering the option for the class to be able to stay together as a group/class for the upcoming RE year. This can occur only if...

1. There are **two** catechists for the group OR **one** catechist and **one** permanent observer OR **one** catechist and parents have agreed to parent rotation. This can mean that the existing catechists/permanent observers are willing to teach again or other parents have agreed to fill these roles.
2. The class is welcoming to new students during placement to round out their numbers. Students not currently in the continuing class can join the class only if there is space available during the general placement lottery process.
3. There is no pressure on a particular student to leave the group or on students to stay.

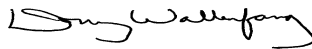
4. Religious Education Registration Forms and payment have been received by June 16, 2008, for the students wishing to continue in the class.

Included in this packet is a Class Continuation Response Form which you must complete and return by **June 16, 2008**, to indicate if you would like your child to remain in the RE class they were in last year or not. If your child does not wish to continue in the same class, RE placement for your child will occur through the general placement lottery process.

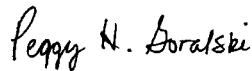
If your child was enrolled in the Home Study program during the 2007-2008 RE year and you would like your child to participate in an RE class for the upcoming year, your child will go through the general placement lottery process with the hope of being placed in a class for the 2008-2009 RE year. Also, please prayerfully consider becoming a catechist in order to open up more classes to serve the needs of the many students enrolled in our program.

Thank you for your time, openness and understanding as we prepare for another blessed year of faith formation at Holy Spirit Catholic Community.

Love in Christ,



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Enclosure: Class Continuation Response Form