

Catechetical Ministry Report to St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Stewardship Council—Oct '08 to March '09

Our report this period will, unfortunately, be brief. Sue Clingingsmith, Director of Religious Education has been in the hospital down in the LA area for about 2 weeks and I have not been able to obtain all the promised inputs for our report. I believe Sue is improving, but no one has contacted me with an official report and her assistant had been unsuccessful in contacting her for an update as of this morning. [Verbal update when available]

Currently we have 91 students (Grades K-5) attending at the OLR site and 142 students At SAG. OLR has 8 teachers or assistants and SAG has 12. We are very grateful for the sacrifice and contributions of these dedicated parishioners for being there looking cheerful and Christ-like morning after morning. I know from personal observation that it is a great program, well organized and the volunteers are provided with very good teaching materials to help them carry the word.

Since early October, in addition to the regular Sunday morning classes, we have had our annual 4th and 5th Grade Bowling party and our “Come Dressed as Your Favorite Saint” ‘contest’. In addition, in October and January, we replaced our regular classes with our “Fun in The Gospel” (F.I.G) family craft project sessions where all members of the family can have fun working on little craft projects with a Gospel theme.

In November and February we replaced one weekly class with a similar Family session—Family Advent Day in November and Lenten Family Day last month. Here are a couple of photos from the most recent Family Day:



Upcoming classes will focus on Lent, of course, and then 2nd Graders will move to their high spot of the year with First Communion at SAG on April 19th and at OLR April 26th. We close the year with one more Fun in the Gospel session in May and 5th Graders “Cross Over” to the Youth Ministry on May 17th.

We are planning to have a Catechist Appreciation Luncheon again this year. It will be June 7th in the Pastoral Garden from noon to ~1:30pm.

We are also planning to hold a Vacation Bible School the week of June 15th-19th at Saint Elizabeth Seton School (scheduled for mornings 9-12). Details TBA.

The Catechetical Program is always looking for support and Parishioners of all ages are very welcome. If you are unsure of taking on a teaching commitment, be assured that every classroom could use another Teachers Aide and we are also very eager for help on one of the F.I.G. sessions. So, if you or someone you know, feels like they want to help but only a little, then F.I.G. may be for you. This would be a commitment of only a couple of hours and there are at least 6 Sundays over the year where we could use the help. You could sign up for one to see how you like it and you would be contributing significantly to the development of what will be the future of our Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gerald V. (Jerry) Lucha
Catechetical Ministry PSC Representative