

R.E. Spring Update

“Catechesis - a privileged stage in evangelization” – Pope Francis

With Easter falling so early this year, our catechists had little time to catch their breath after Christmastide ended and Lent began. As I recalled all that the catechists accomplished, Pope Francis’ words to catechists gathered for the Third International Congress on Catechesis (2022) came to mind:

“Catechesis is a privileged stage in evangelization. Catechesis cannot be like an hour at school, but rather a living experience of the faith that each one of us feels the desire to transmit to the new generations.”

Here are just a few examples of how our catechists embraced this privilege. Grant Huslig, the seminarian who teaches the RCIC students, constructed an altar in the classroom where the students had an interactive experience learning about the Liturgy of the Eucharist. First Communicants worked together to create a colorful mosaic of The Last Supper. Third and Fourth graders discussed meaningful ways to observe Lent. Fifth graders constructed a three-dimensional Ark of the Covenant. Sixth graders took turns saying a decade of the Rosary each week. Seventh graders focused on the lives of the saints and prayed the Stations of the Cross, and Eight graders received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

And for our First graders R.E. class was like anything but an hour at their regular school! Mary Kay Hastings used four o’clock flowers, butterflies, and wind chimes to teach the mysteries of the faith. Children planted the seeds of a flower which only opens at four o’clock (like Jesus who was in the closed tomb but who came to life). And like butterflies, we will go through a metamorphosis in purgatory. The children assembled wind chimes to hang in their bedroom windows and every time the chimes tinkled, they were to think about Jesus on the cross, and then Jesus alive and with them.

When asked about what inspired Mary Kay Hastings in her ministry, she responded: “I love teaching the kids that they have a role to play in the Story – offering up suffering, praying for others; holy water; things that they can do. I wish I had them every day because there is so much I want to tell them.” She is also fond of drawing upon Narnia, which the children love.

As we near the end of the school year, I invite you to think about how you might “*come further up, come further in*” and experience the privileged opportunity that being a catechist or assistant brings. Please reach out if you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to this ministry.



*“I am in [your world]”, said Aslan. “But there I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there. ... **Come further up, come further in!**”*

from *Narnia*, by C.S. Lewis

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