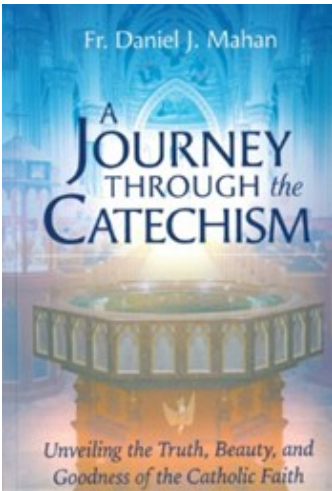


## Parishioners' Corner



It's free; it's once a week through May; it happens at SEOTT and it's offered on Tuesday afternoons (which I attend) as well as on Wednesday evenings. The hidden gem I am referring to is the "Review of Catechism" class hosted and presided by Jim Madura.

I learned my catechism in Catholic grade school many years ago. I know that Catholic doctrine and dogmas have not changed. However, the Church continues to understand and teach our faith in renewed ways over the centuries. I signed up for the SEOTT catechism classes because I wanted to review what I have forgotten, clear up what I may have misunderstood or missed, and learn about changes in how the Church administers our faith.

For these sessions at SEOTT, we use Fr. Daniel Mahan's book, *A Journey Through the Catechism*, which serves as our textbook. The work is divided into four categories or pillars based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Each chapter of Fr. Mahan's book concludes with a synopsis and some questions that ask the reader to reflect on what was just read. The actual *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, while not particularly hard or academic, is not an easy-to-read book for many. In contrast, Fr. Mahan's book is more understandable to the layperson, and the format is question/answer. The author explains how the teachings of the Church reflect Scripture and tradition. We have read and discussed topics such as the Trinity, Mass, the Sacraments, Mary, our resurrection, saints, and prayer.

The sessions, which are 90 minutes each, are scheduled through May 19 and May 20. So, there is still time to stop in the rectory, pick up a book, and join these sessions at SEOTT. We read two chapters a week, which takes about one hour depending on whether you reference the actual *Catechism*. You don't need your own copy of the *Catechism* to make the readings meaningful.

With these sessions, I am renewing and relearning my faith. In particular, I will be more knowledgeable and confident in explaining, professing and defending my Catholic faith to my non-Catholic friends. Also, it's been a great opportunity to meet and get to know other people in the parish. There are a few more weeks left and it's not too late to join in. Each "class" session stands alone and does not rely on the previous one. It's an experience I recommend.

Connie Polaniecki