

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Ministry Spotlight: Parish School of Religion

Teachers, substitute teachers, classroom aides, office helpers and those willing to help with special events are a few of the volunteer opportunities available through St. Sebastian's Parish School of Religion (PSR).

The PSR program serves parish students from kindergarten to eighth grade who are not enrolled in St. Sebastian School. Each year is devoted to a certain aspect of Catholic education, such as the Eucharist and First Communion preparation in second grade, the Old Testament in sixth grade, the life of Jesus in seventh grade and the history of church in eighth grade.

According to Carolyn Humston, coordinator of religious education, PSR teachers must have their basic certification through the Cleveland Diocese. This involves taking three classes, covering such areas as basic beliefs and traditions, and faith formation. Additional continuing education opportunities are also available.

PSR classes meet on Sunday mornings. Beginning in November with the new Mass schedule, PSR will meet 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., ending just before the 11 a.m. Mass.

"The perfect PSR teacher is someone who is strong in his or her faith, loves children and has some creative approaches to teaching," said Humston. This year, the PSR faculty will benefit from the educational resources and experience of Melane Francis, who has taught for many years at St. Sebastian School.

Volunteers are also needed for special events throughout the school year, such as a family Advent workshop, a Living

Rosary and May Crowning, and PSR participation in the Music Ministry.

To get involved, call Carolyn Humston at 330-836-2233.

Faith in Action: Linda Kilian

For the past four years, Linda Kilian has taught fifth grade PSR students about the sacraments.

"I love seeing the children grow in their relationship with the Lord," said Linda. "My philosophy is that children should not just know about Him; they should know Him."

Linda has many wonderful memories growing up in a devout Catholic family in New Jersey. For example, she remembers her whole family going to confession together. "After taking the sacrament, my mother would say, 'I feel so light now.' It was a very positive experience."

Linda grew even stronger in her faith as a newly-married wife and young mother living in Alabama. Her husband, Bruce, had safely come home from Vietnam only to be gravely injured in a helicopter accident while working as an instructor pilot. While Bruce eventually recovered and the couple went on to have seven children and one grandchild, Linda said she realized then and there that God is in control of all things.

Today, Linda is a wonderful steward, giving of her time not only with the PSR program but also as a volunteer on the parish R.C.I.A. team and with the Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry.

A Disciple's Response

"So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God..."

(Ephesians 5:1-2)