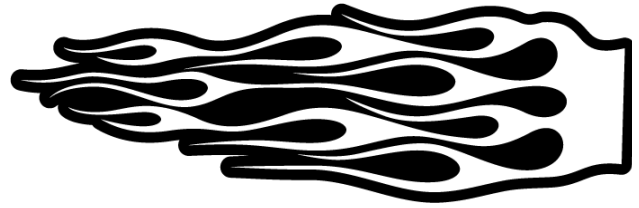


FLAME TEEN HANDOUT

Week 18 – 4/24/2022

Wrap-Up



WERE YOU BAPTIZED AS A BABY?

If you're like most Catholics, that's how you first joined the church. Infant baptism has its obvious advantages: the early vaccination against original sin, guaranteed new life in Christ, and membership in the church—all nothing to sneeze at. But there's one drawback to starting your life as a Catholic while you're still in diapers: You have no idea what you're getting into! In this respect, infant baptism might seem to have all the charm of being drafted. If you happen to meet the criteria—in most cases, just having Catholic parents—you're in. Embracing a Catholic identity, however, is a whole lot more than simply being a card-carrying member of the church. Some may settle for a baptism, wedding, and funeral in the church and feel they've gotten the best of it. But if you choose to live all the moments in between from the perspective of the Catholic worldview, you can enhance your life beyond your wildest imaginings.



HOW IMPORTANT IS YOUR SOUL TO GOD? IF YOU HAD BEEN THE ONLY HUMAN BEING EVER TO BE CREATED BY GOD, JESUS WOULD'VE STILL COME AND ENDURED THE CRUCIFIXION FOR YOU... THINK ABOUT IT!

Discuss as a group...

1. What do I like about being Catholic?
2. How does being Catholic affect my everyday living?
3. How does being Catholic influence my reaction to events that happen around me?
4. Can being Catholic help me become a better person than I would be without the set of practices and attitudes the faith provides?
5. How am I going to continue to practice my faith?

Something else to think about... When I am an adult, how will my life have meaning? Without being Catholic, how will I mark the special moments in my life? How will I celebrate my joys... marriage, birth of children? What will sustain me, comfort me, and support me through my sorrows? How will I teach my children the meaning of their lives? How will I anoint my sick loved ones?

Being human naturally means making moral choices. Catholic morality is shaped by many principles including the idea that human life belongs to God. That is why we take a moral stand away from abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, genetic engineering and all avoidable warfare. It's also why we support fidelity in marriage, the welfare of children, and public policies that lead to justice and peace.

As Jesus succinctly put it, "Love one another."



Think about it... God is an infinite being... If we seek God's mercy, our sins are forgiven... We are called by God and empowered through the gifts of the Holy Spirit to carry the presence of Christ into the world today... Jesus gives us enduring ways to encounter his presence through the sacraments which use ordinary things like water, oil, bread, wine, touch, words, a ring, a promise...

When we read the Bible, we can find our own story... Jesus' teachings in the Bible are as true now as in ancient times: giving hope to the hopeless, defending the poor, the suffering, the excluded... When we involve ourselves in works of justice, righting the imbalance of power in the world, we are "being church".


On your own, complete the following survey. Then, re-gather as a group and share your results.

SUMMARY OF THE ESSENTIALS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

As Catholics we believe:


How strongly do you believe?


	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Unsure	Disagree
† that scripture is the primary, sufficient, and reliable source of our beliefs.				
† in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds produced by the early councils.				
† in one loving, personal God in three divine persons.				
† that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.				
† that Christ died for us, rose from the dead, and will come again.				
† that we are saved by grace through faith and are made new by the Holy Spirit.				
† that if we trust in Jesus, our life will change; faith without works is impossible.				
† that through the Holy Spirit, the sacraments impart the grace which they signify.				
† that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist.				
† that through the Apostolic Succession, Jesus empowers clergy for ministry.				
† in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church made up of all Christian believers.				
† in working for the unity with diversity of the church, the Body of Christ.				
† in obeying the Great Commandments to love God and love our neighbor.				



In John 17:20, Jesus promises to pray for you.

When has this been evident in your life?





Listen Reflect Meditate

Faith Year in Reflection:

Please separate this page from the lesson plan. Have the teens write down answers to each of the following questions. Keep the responses anonymous. When everyone has finished, tear off each separate question, crumble the paper up and toss them in a basket. Once everyone has finished and crumbled the questions, pass the basket around and read the responses out loud.

Catechists, please feel free to collect and summarize your teen's responses in an email to Teen Faith.

How am I different as a result of this past year? How did I do with my faith growth goal?

How have we as a group changed? What did we, as a group, do best?

What can I take away from this FLAME group experience?

What am I going to miss most about our FLAME Group? What do I want to tell my group right now?

In what ways will I continue to practice my faith on my own? Where do I want God to be at work in my life?

The Paper Quilt

By Pam Paisley, Group Work Experts Share Their Favorite Activities

Materials: squares of white paper (heavy duty drawing paper if you can), a large sheet of poster paper (teen faith will supply), markers, pens, and pencils.

Preparation: cut paper in the size squares so that each group member can fit a square onto the poster paper.

Directions: acknowledge that this is the last session. Hand out a square to each person and tell everyone we will be constructing a paper quilt as a way of ending our year. Each person should create their own square representing the group and their faith journey this year. After everyone is done, ask each person to share their square before they tape or glue it onto the poster paper. As the catechist, please note commonalities as people are placing their squares. Once complete, ask the teens what they think and how they feel about the quilt.

I learned - complete one or two of these sentences about what you learned this year in FLAME:

- I learned...
- I relearned...
- I discovered...
- I wonder if...
- I was surprised by...

Faith in Action for the Summer

Pray Daily

Keep in touch with your group over the summer-encourage each other

Get involved in other ways at Holy Family- Follow through on your ministry commitment form

Plan a group social or service outing this summer

Make being Catholic part of your identity. View the world through this Catholic lens!