



Ignite the F.I.R.E.



Families Involved in Religious Education

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

F.I.R.E. is a hope to involve more families in the investment of teaching our children to live and love the Catholic faith, through education, family events and opportunities to build up our relationship with Christ and His Church as families and as a community.

ARE WE “MODERN”?

I was asked recently if we could “modernize” our RE program. After evaluating what we did or didn’t offer compared to others, I realized that what we offer as a church is pretty outstanding. (That doesn’t mean we can’t grow our program though!) At any specific time in our lives, the Church offers us direction, opportunities to grow, mercy and forgiveness as well as fellowship with our fellow Catholics.

Our youth are taught by faith-loving Christians, who they themselves admit that they learn right along with the kids, and that is a beautiful thing! As young adults, we are invited to many different types of activities, all meant to help us grow in our faith and discern our vocations. When we feel called to a specific vocation, such as married life, priests, religious or single, the Church offers special direction through schooling, marriage prep classes, enrichment classes like “Theology on Tap” and bible studies.

When God-willing, we are called to be parents, at their baptisms, we promise to raise and teach them the Catholic faith. This teaching can start immediately, even before they can communicate. Getting your children used to Mass, knowing the priests, and meeting those in our parish communities builds trust and helps them become more comfortable in these settings. We are the most important teachers!

By the time they reach school age, whether homeschooled, Catholic school or Religious Education, they should be comfortable with beginning to learn more about their faith from others. This by no means lets us as parents off the hook! Now it’s as important as ever to share in your child’s learning, help them discern God’s will and most importantly, to pray for them and their futures. (There are some Saints that knew God’s will before they even reached adulthood!) If we teach them to become individuals who seek Christ in all they do, everything else in their lives will fall into place and they will have much more peace and confidence in all they do. I think that’s a “modern” concept!

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” ~ St. Catherine of Siena