

# A Message from Mike.....

It will soon be summer and the catechetical program for this year will be ended.

Or will it? Do you have anything planned during the summer to re-enforce what you have accomplished in the last nine months? Some activities that you usually do are on-going faith formation activities. The homily can be a major faith formation tool, as well as a well-planned Sunday Eucharistic liturgy. Are the faithful "nurtured by the word of God and nourished by the sacraments, especially the Eucharist"? (NDC p.100) During the summer, is your parish "the primary experience of the Church"? (OHWB no.114) Do visitors or summer residents experience the parish as a vibrant faith community or just a place to fulfill one's Sunday obligation?

Yes, we have a welcoming vibrant faith community during the summer, as well as during the rest of the year, but are there other things that we can plan during the summer to supplement our parish's Sunday liturgy? Here are a few suggestions that some of our parishes offer:

Use **Bulletin Inserts** that provide activities and questions for reflection for the whole family. These can be related to the Sunday readings, holidays, or special summer events. Activities can be offered for trips, summer excursions, or for family time on the porch or around an evening fire.

**Summer School** can be scheduled for grades up to 6<sup>th</sup>. There are programs from various catechetical companies that are Bible orientated or which focus on a particular theme.

There are also some video series available on loan from the Regional Centers which can be easily adapted for a summer program. If one is truly ambitious, one can develop one's own program using various videos and activity books which are also available in the Regional Centers.

**Tapes, Videos, CD's, Books** can be made available for loan for all age levels. One parish I know has a display at the back of the church where parishioners can purchase CDs for \$1.00, and another allowed them to borrow books for their on-going faith development. These can be used on trips, during quiet times or while working on a sun tan (of course, encourage use of sun screen!).

**A Parish Barbeque, Dinner, or Picnic** can be an occasion for on-going faith development. One could plan a short talk, some activities for families or individual age groups. With some creativity, games can be developed and prizes awarded for the winners. A tag team race with questions to be answered before tagging the next person, or, perhaps, a game of Are You Smarter than a Confirmation Candidate? might be played. Perhaps you can think of something that might work better, or ask a group of your teenagers for suggestions.



These are just a few of the ways that one can continue the parish



on-going faith formation during the summer. Good luck and have a great summer!