

Religious Education Program 2017-2018

By Jane Gannon (RE Coordinator)

Year Report

During this year a total of 365 children and youth were enrolled in classes from Preschool to Confirmation.

We were fortunate to have 51 adult volunteers who joined teaching teams in classes from Preschool through Level 8, and 4 Students Assistants helping these teams.

First Holy Communion

This year 36 children received First Holy Communion coordinated by the First Communion catechist team.

Reconciliation

Fedora Leon successfully coordinated the program this year, with the assistance of the reconciliation catechists and continued with a smaller more family based Celebration.

Materials

Preschool –follow the book 'God made the world' part of the finding God program

Levels: prep, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 follow the 'Finding God – Our Response To God's Gifts' program - a beautifully illustrated, modern prayer based program reflecting a vision of our Catholic faith grounded in scripture and tradition and an Ignatian recognition of the presence of God in all things.

Level 2 our 1st Holy Communion Class use the Viewpoint Publication 'God's Greatest Gift'.

Classroom Space

We are still having to do a little juggling with our classroom space, due to the numbers in some of our older levels, 7 and 8. We continue to use B7 for L8 and also when the top three levels met for our monthly catechism event, "The Word." We have also been using the library for preparation of children for 'Special Holy Communion'.

Registration

Online registration continues to be the main way of parents registering their children, the program makes the registration process run smoothly, allowing parents the choice of times and classes they wish to choose for their children.

Registration is now opened for this coming catechism year with a good uptake already.

Parents can see a basic curriculum for Levels, pre-school - 8, which includes the theme of the year, learning outcomes, prayers children will know, etc. This is posted on the parish website.

Sacramental Events

1st Holy Communion.

On Saturday 18th May 2019, 36 children received First Holy Communion. They had been prepared by our loyal team of Communion Catechists and had a very beautiful, prayerful celebration. The Children had a full catechetical year taking part in their inscription Masses and a full retreat day held here in the Parish hall. They were presented to the Parish at the Going Forth Mass on 19th May.

I would like to thank all involved for their support and generosity of their time.

1st Reconciliation. This was led by Fedora Leon.

Fedora and Pricilla, smoothly coordinated four very prayerful celebrations for Level 2. These were held over two weekends and allowed the children to make First Reconciliation, along with their family.

There were a total of 45 children whose first confessions were heard.

The Level 2 children also led and participated in a class Mass during their preparation.

We thank Fedora, for all her hard work and coordination along with her husband Oliver, and Pricilla D'Sousa for their hard work.

Special 1st Holy Communion. Lito and Lyn Benitez prepared 3 students who received 1st Reconciliation and joyful celebration of First Holy Communion on 2nd June 2018.

We thank them for their hard work and dedication this year.

Regular Events throughout the Catechism Year

Class Masses We were very lucky to have had several class Masses this year, thanks to the catechists involved.

The Word which is a combined class of levels 6, 7 and 8, at 9am and 10.30am during catechism classes, this was held monthly, led by Jane Gannon and was very well attended by children and Catechists.

Nativity Mass was as always, a very wonderful celebration, enjoyed by a full church of children and parents. This year it was coordinated by Lynette Dumont, and Janice Leif who did a great job in organizing and planning so we could have such a beautiful moving nativity play and Mass.

Catechism New Year Appeal. This year our catechism classes raised 820CHF. This was given to the Red Cross for humanitarian work in Mozambique.

Child Protection Workshop was held on 10th November 2018, led by Matthew Hadley. It was again opened together English speaking Churches in Geneva. It was very well attended by our own catechists and the feedback given was very positive.

End of Year Catechist Appreciation and Pancake Sunday was held on 26th t May, it was a good event with lots of pancakes and strawberries being eaten! A great way to say thank you!

Conclusions & Future.

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this last RE report, as I have been asked to step down as RE coordinator. I have served the catechism program here in the parish for the past ten years and have enjoyed making the program what it is today, with the help of the REC.

Our parish is so lucky to have dedicated people who serve as catechists, student assistants and volunteers who so graciously give their time Sunday after Sunday in snow, rain, hail and shine to teach our children. They are not thanked enough, and I will miss working with them so, so much.

Our Catechism program is special and I hope whoever has the honor of looking after it from now on, serves it with the dedication and time that it deserves, so that it continues to grow and flourish.

Thank you all, it has been a pleasure!