

Last week I attended the meeting of *Societas Liturgica* in Würzburg Germany. We had about 300 people from 31 countries and many different Christian churches. We heard talks about the reform of the liturgy - because this December marks the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II document that brought changes to the mass. This meeting gathers people who believe in the value of education, especially in the liturgy.

This week here at home our schools are back in session, and parents who believe in the value of education are sacrificing to provide it for their children. Here at St. Anthony's we will begin registration for religious education this week. We have dedicated catechists and loving parents. However, the opportunities for the religious education of children are fewer here than in other parishes. We currently offer no religious formation for children in English. And the only formation we offer in Spanish is to prepare children for first communion. Any parish our size should offer a complete program of religious education. Children should be in our classrooms every year, not just the year of their first communion. We need more catechists, and we need them in both languages. Education is an essential part of any Catholic parish, and the amount we offer here currently is below the standard. We have to change this.

Adults also should continue their religious formation. Learning about God and the Church is not simply a matter for children; it applies to all of us. I continue to study and learn every year, and I expect every Catholic to do the same. Few people come for adult faith formation. That is true in almost every Catholic parish, not just here. But it is something that we can and must try to improve.

So, here is what to look for this year: I am inviting all children who understand Spanish to attend religious education this year - even those who have already made their first communion. Parents may register their children on Wednesday night this week or next. All fees must be paid immediately. If you have trouble with payments, you may apply for assistance through the Father Hix Fund, but all payments, photos and documents must be submitted in the next ten days.

In English, we will be offering a bible study program for children ages 2-6 on Sunday mornings. We will provide formation for older children as soon as other catechists volunteer to help.

For adults, we will offer a series in Spanish on Wednesdays starting in September. We are still in planning stages for adult faith formation in English.

Today's responsorial psalm is a hymn of thanksgiving from a person who cried out to God for help and received it. I truly believe that one of the ways God offers us help is through religious education. It is my hope that this year we will build a stronger parish program of religious education and give thanks for all that God does to rescue us in our times of need.