

## **Childrens' Christian Education**

### **Weaving God's Promises and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

Whenever someone asks me about our Children's Christian Education program I start telling them about the two programs we use here at All Saints which are Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Weaving God's Promises. We are now into our 9th year of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and our 2nd year of Weaving God's Promises. I hesitate to use the word teachers when speaking about the three of us, Jan Fritzsche, Lisa Czerny and myself, Sandy Kynerd and what it is that we do every Sunday morning from 9:45 until the Peace as we come walking (sometimes running) into church singing with the children. I say this only because we know it is the Holy Spirit that is the Teacher. We are facilitators, catalysts, which the Holy Spirit is working through.

We have a lot of material and information to help us plan our Sunday's but when we get into our Atriums on Sunday we need to be ready for anything. Believe me when I tell you that there are times when I start talking with the children about our planned Old Testament or New Testament story and I can feel the Holy Spirit moving and taking over. Something I say or something one of the children say will start a whole new conversation. I will sit back and think "well this is not exactly what I planned but hey this works".

I've noticed that our Prayer time is the children's favorite. I will hear them ask "Is it prayer time yet? or Can we pray now?" They love sitting at the Prayer Table and passing our book of children's prayers around. They know that they do not choose a particular prayer but read the prayer on the page that the book opens to when it is their turn. They are able to recognize the Golden Thread that runs through the prayers that are being read that morning. I am so blessed to see how they love to pray. They pray with adoration, confession, thanksgiving, for their families and friends, and pets and they pray for themselves. They know that they can just talk to Jesus at any time of the day or night no particular time no particular place.

This year the children were excited to help fill the 67 Christmas gifts that we provided for the American Cancer Hope Lodge. They planned a special Birthday Party for Jesus that was held on Christmas Eve at the 6 pm Family Service. They made the invitations and handed them out to our parish family and took some home to hand out to their families. They made beautiful ornaments that we hung on the Christmas tree in the narthex to give to all the families that attended Christmas services. It was a wonderful service which included glow lights and singing "Happy Birthday to Jesus". And just as the Light of Jesus never goes out neither did the candles they were trying to blow out on the cake which made for a very interesting Homily. We served another cake afterwards along with milk and coffee. It was a wonderful Celebration of Jesus' Birth. And at the Epiphany Party the children were able to help make the Friendship Soup Jars that were given to seniors at the Educator Apartments. It is so great to get our children involved at such an early age to be the Light and the Hands of Jesus.

I also want to express how proud we were witnessing Benny, Eric, Jillian and Dana and RJ as they confirmed their faith on Sunday, January 11th. They were our very first Good Shepherd Children 9 yrs ago.

We thank all the parents and grandparents that continue to bring their children on Sunday's.

God's Blessings!!!  
Sandy Kynerd