

What is the Children of St. Angela Merici Program?

The Children of St. Angela Merici is a program that utilizes a unique curriculum designed for students with special needs or disabilities. This curriculum draws its inspiration both from traditional catechetical material as well as from Catechesis of the Good Shepherd material. It is not diluted catechesis; rather, it is customized and adapted catechesis to meet the unique needs of each student and his or her needs.

Philosophy and Vision of the Program:

Under the patronage of St. Angela Merici, patron saint of individuals with disabilities, the Children of St. Angela Merici exists to provide catechesis to a group that is often deprived of this opportunity. This program is committed to providing beauty of the faith to members of the Catholic Church with special needs or disabilities. It does so in a way that maximizes the

experience and formation of each student.

Recent Church documents, including both the National and General Directories for Catechesis, promote catechetical work for children and adults with disabilities and other special needs. In particular, they encourage that the sacraments and life of the Church may be made more readily available to all the baptized, regardless of disability or any special needs.

The catechists of the Children of St. Angela Merici answer this call by upholding the dignity of every person, catechizing all to the best of their ability.

What does this program aim to do?

This program is designed to meet the needs of each student. Consequently, it strives for the following:

*Help each student to grow into his or her baptismal call. This includes, but is not limited to, preparation for sacraments and basic catechesis in the Catholic faith.

* Although the class content may be presented in a creative way to make it more accessible to each student, it is not to be devoid of the truth, mystery, or fullness of the faith in any way.

*No student will be considered incapable of living out his or her baptismal call. The catechists and assistants will work to instill in students a sense of their vocations, of God's will active in their lives.

*The catechetical classes will be a time and place of safety for the students. There they are promised to be loved, cherished, forgiven, and understood. We ultimately hope that, through the experience of the program, students will encounter the love of God.

*Finally, the catechetical space is to be a warm and welcoming environment, free of too many distractions. It is to be a place where noise is kept to a manageable volume, where all are encouraged to have a gentle, calm spirit. This enables the space to become a cherished refuge for the students where they can come to know God more deeply.

What does this Curriculum entail?

Currently, the curriculum includes four levels. **Level I** aims toward “Sacramental Preparation,” especially the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. **Level II’s** focus is the “Liturgical Year and Life in the Church.” This is a repeatable level for several years after the completion of Level I. **Level III**, “Preparation for Confirmation,” takes place just after the Level II class for those who have reached the diocesan age for Confirmation. Finally, **Level IV** returns to the “Liturgical Year and Life in the Church,” but its participants are teens or adults who have already been Confirmed.

“[God] said to me, ‘My grace is enough for you, for power is made perfect in weakness’. Therefore, I will boast most gladly of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me... For whenever I am weak...then I am strong!”

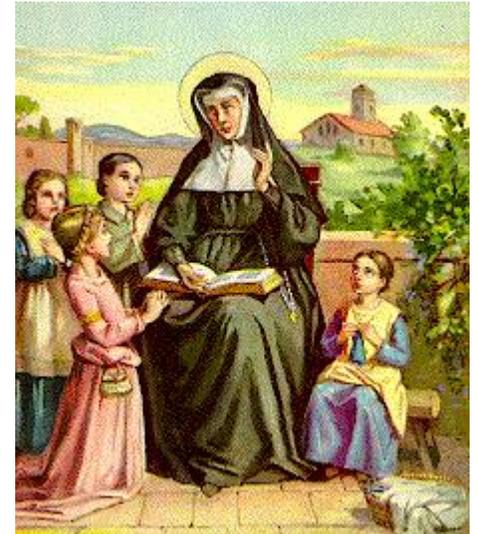
-2 Corinthians 12:6-7

For more information contact:

St. Pius X Catholic Church
Religious Education Office
574-277-5760
(This program is unique to St. Pius X Catholic Church.)

St. Angela Merici, pray for us!

Children of St. Angela Merici



Information for Parents
and Guardians

St. Pius X Catholic Church
Granger, IN