

# ***IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH***

***Junior High – RAP Program  
(Ready Active Participants)***

***&***

***EDGE YOUTH GROUP***

**Can They See Jesus in YOU?**

**A Call to living the Corporal Works of Mercy**



**“...You will be my witnesses...” -Acts 1:8**

***Handbook for  
Grades 6, 7 & 8  
2019 - 2020***

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**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
Junior High Rap Program  
2019-2020**

**RAP  
READY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS**

**WELCOME STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

**Welcome to the IHM RAP Program. As a student in the program, you will be involved in gathering activities, prayer, unit study, service projects, youth night (grades 7&8 ONLY) and much more. Your segments of learning will fall into 3 categories: SHARE, DISCOVER & RESPOND.**

**SHARE: an activity that leads you to discuss the topic.**

**DISCOVER: you are provided with the information you need to understand the topic.**

**RESPOND: for Christians it is never enough to know about Jesus. The challenge is always to go and do as Jesus did. Here you are offered an opportunity to use what you have learned.**

**Our basic goal, as it has always been, is to provide each student the opportunity to acknowledge, reflect upon, and respond to his or her faith and Catholic identity.**

**A special note to students:**

***Now that you have reached your teens, Jesus is calling each of you just as he did his disciples to grow and mature in faith, to evangelize – to be people who tell, share and live the Good News of Christ – first with family and friends and then in the wider world of your parish, school and community.***

***Come and journey with your classmates and teachers so that we can share our Catholic Faith together and grow in knowledge and gratitude for the GIFT of our greatest treasure, our Catholic Faith.***

**Parents and Students:**

**Views concerning the RAP program are welcomed and encouraged. The religious education staff, along with the Rap teachers are open to ideas and suggestions that will enhance and involve more student/parent participation. Please feel free to call Lisa Tippett, Coordinator of Youth & Adolescent Catechesis: 859-689-5010, ext. 263/E-mail: ltippett@ihm-ky.org at any time for continued discussion.**

**Parents:**

**We ask you to reflect on the following statement:**

*“What the young people need today are not adults who will hand over information but adults who will hand over themselves and the beauty of their own lived faith.”*

**RAP TEACHERS MINISTRY STATEMENT:**

**It is our intention to maintain a Christian environment at all times. We want the message we communicate to you, our Junior High Teens to be clear:**

**YOU BELONG HERE AT IHM**

**YOU ARE THE CHURCH**

**YOU BELONG TO US**

**WE BELONG TO YOU**

**YOU DO HAVE A PLACE!**

**WE LOVE YOU!!**

**TOGETHER WE ARE CHURCH!!!**

**-Youth Pastoral Letter  
Bishop William A. Hughes**

**The intentional Christian environment we seek is rooted in having *YOU*, our young teens experience the power of gospel love while you are learning about it. Our hope as teachers is to love people as Jesus loves them, and to help you, our RAP students to grow in the Catholic faith and the knowledge of our tradition and worship.**

## RAP CURRICULUM

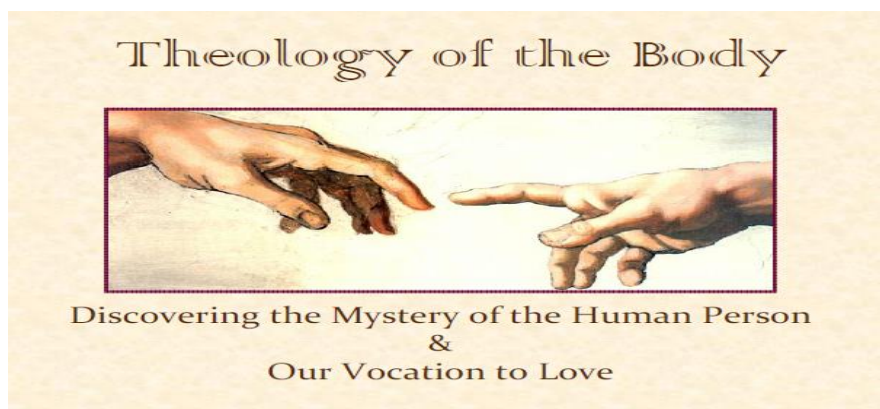
The entire RAP staff intends to go to great lengths to make this program a fun, faith filled experience for your teen. Grade 6 curriculum is the Old Testament of the Bible. Grade 7 is studying the life of Jesus through the New Testament. Grade 8 catechesis is based on St. John Paul II's, "Theology of the Body".

## EDGE

Edge is our Catholic Junior High Youth Group, a group where peers experience what they have learned about their faith in a motivating and dynamic way through the leadership of Karen Gutzeit, our IHM youth minister. Fr. Rottman, Karen Gutzeit, Sr. Armella, Lisa Tippett and the RAP staff are grateful for this opportunity for our Jr. High RAP students to participate in EDGE as a component of the RAP Program. Sessions are held each month, September - April from 6:55pm-8:30pm in Britt Hall as indicated on the enclosed schedule at the end of the hand book.

## THEOLOGY OF THE BODY (TOB) - For 8th Grade Students

Our 8th grade curriculum for TOB is based on St. John Paul's Theology of the Body which offers a very positive message of the gift of sexuality as a good and essential part of love and life. This catechesis could easily be called: "Human Love in the Divine Plan". The program uses a great mix of stories, real-life examples, activities, prayers and references to the culture that are relevant to the lives of our youth. Because parents are the primary educators of your children in the matters of faith and morals, RAP 8th grade parents are asked to attend an evening parent introductory session before the program is introduced to the students.



## ADMISSION

Admission to the RAP Program at IHM is open to anyone within the parish boundary. Families must be registered, contributing members of IHM parish.

Book fees are as follows:

*\$100 for one child*

*\$155 for two children*

*\$185 for three or more children*

These fees cover the cost of books and supplies, i.e., paper, pencils, pens, markers, poster board, notebooks, etc. used by the students and teachers. This fee is payable at the beginning of the current RAP year.

Each school year the Education Office of the Diocese of Covington requires a \$2 head tax for each student attending religious education classes in any parish. This will assist us in obtaining more professional assistance from the Diocesan Office in areas such as catechist training courses and resource materials, etc. This fee is already included in the book fee for RAP.

- *If you are unable to pay the RAP fee in one payment on the due date, then a minimum of \$25 PER STUDENT is due. Weekly or monthly payments are to be made until the RAP fee is paid in full.*

## ATTENDANCE

It is very important for students to attend RAP classes on a regular basis as well as to arrive on time.

***NOTE:*** If a RAP student misses more than 5 classes he/she will be officially dropped from the class unless we hear from you. Five or more “unexcused” classes during one program year are considered excessive and may be the cause for repeating the same grade level the following year unless work is made up and turned in for verification.

If, for any reason, you choose to withdraw your student from RAP classes, please contact us immediately.

***\*\* If you have a change of address or phone number during the current year, please notify as soon as possible. Thank you.***

## COMMUNICATION

One of the most essential ingredients to a successful program is communication. Good communication avoids misunderstanding and builds trust.

Emails will be the primary source of communication from our Religious Education Office.

In addition, letters, flyers, outlines of materials to be studied will be sent home with your teen. Please ask your teen each week if a communication has been given to them for their parents. If at any time you have concerns or questions please contact Lisa Tippett, Coordinator of Youth & Adolescent Catechesis: 859-689-5010, ext. 263/E-mail: [ltippett@ihm-ky.org](mailto:ltippett@ihm-ky.org)

## DISMISSAL

Dismissal will be from the main entrance of church in the upper level parking lot. Students will line up along the sidewalk in front of the church/school for parent/guardian to pick up.

## CANCELLATION OF CLASSES DUE TO BAD WEATHER

**DO NOT ASSUME** that anytime Boone County Schools cancel classes or dismisses early due to bad weather there will be no religious education classes that evening. Check your TV channels (*Channel 5-WLWT, Channel 9-WCPO, Channel 12-WKRC and Channel 19-WXIX*), and your e-mail for cancellations. Parents and Teachers will be notified by e-mail as soon as a decision is made regarding the cancellation of classes.



# **READY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS**

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

1. Classes begin promptly at 6:55 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.
2. Students are to go directly to the gathering space where class begins with “gathering activities” and prayer each week.
3. There should be a quiet atmosphere throughout the building so learning may take place for all. Therefore, the following are not permitted:
  - a. Leaving class without teachers permission
  - b. ALL electronic devices including cell phones, and gum or candy.
  - c. Parking lot, Boone Woods Park, are **NON-DESIGNATED** areas of the IHM complex.
  - d. Loud noise or running in the hall.
  - e. Touching or using classroom materials in the room or from another student’s desk.
  - f. Wearing of hats or caps in the building or *shoes with wheels.*

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate and conducive to learning. If and when a student’s behavior becomes disruptive and/or destructive to the learning process, the following consequences for violating rules will be taken:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>First violation:</b>  | <b>Student will receive a verbal warning</b>                                       |
| <b>Second violation:</b> | <b>Student will be sent to the DRE/CRE</b>   |
| <b>Third violation:</b>  | <b>Parents will be called by catechist or<br/>DRE/CRE</b>                          |
| <b>Fourth violation:</b> | <b>Parents will be asked to meet with the<br/>teen, teacher, DRE/CRE or pastor</b> |



## **IHM RAP HOME STUDY POLICY**

**In certain circumstances a teen may need to complete a year of religion class in a home study mode. Once circumstances are discussed and approval is given by the Director of Religious Education or Coordinator of Youth & Adolescent Catechesis, a family may embark in a home study program.**

**The following guidelines must be respected:**

- \* Student materials for the appropriate grade level must be purchased.**
- \* Completed materials must be turned in at a specified time to the Director of Religious Education.**
- \* A fee of \$60 is requested for materials and administrative assistance.**



# 10 BEST GIFTS FOR YOUR TEEN

## 1. RESPECT

- a. Listen to your teen.
- b. Take your teenager seriously.
- c. Treat him/her with dignity and worth.
- d. Separate what your teen does from who he/she *is*.
- e. Avoid comparisons.
- f. Honor his/her plans.

## 2. ROOM

- a. Allow your teen the privacy he/she needs to begin the process of individualization, of becoming his/her own person.
- b. Allow your teen to keep his/her bedroom (living space) in a way that reflects his/her personality.

## 3. RESEPTIVITY

- a. Be a good listener.
- b. Listen with empathy.
- c. Listen non-judgmentally.

## 4. REVELATION OF SELF

- a. Reveal who *you* are.
- b. Reveal the journeys of how you have grown into the person you are.
- c. Share yourself.
- d. Share your past, present, and dreams for the future.
- e. When you share your personal experiences with your teen, you invite him/her to do the same.

## 5. RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Give your teen choices.
- b. Hold your teenager accountable for the choices he/she makes.
- c. Help your teen set goals.
- d. Give your teen responsibilities at home.
- e. Hold regular family meetings.

## 6. RESOLVE

- a. Parent with purpose.
- b. Be consistent.
- c. Assert your values.
- d. Set clear limits.
- e. Follow through with appropriate consequences.

## 7. RECOGNITION

- a. Affirm positive behavior.
- b. Affirm personality qualities.
- c. Say *I love you*.
- d. Write your teenager a letter.
- e. Express loving physical affection.
- f. Trust in your teenager.
- g. Attend your teen's events.
- h. Accept your teenager for the person he/she is.

## 8. RECONCILIATION

- a. Admit your mistakes.
- b. Ask for forgiveness.
- c. Forgive those who have wronged you.

## 9. RELEASE

- a. Give your teenager more freedom as he/she demonstrates more responsibility.
- b. Encourage your teen to be his/her own person.
- c. When it is time for your teen to leave the nest, let him/her go.

## 10. ROLE-MODEL

- a. Model the very behavior that you want to see in your teenager as he/she grows into an adult.
- b. Teach by example...example...example.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
**RAP/EDGE (GRADES 6-8)**  
**Schedule 2019-2020**  
**Mondays, 6:55 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**

**Ready**  
**Active**  
**Participants &**  
**EDGE-Youth Group**  
**Grades 6-8**

**UNIT I:**

- Sept. 9 *Parent/Student Orientation*  
 16 **Class Period**  
       *TOB Parent Orientation*  
 23 *RAP/EDGE-Back to School Dance*  
 30 **Class Period**
- Oct. 7 **Class Period**  
 14 *RAP/EDGE*  
 21 **Class Period**  
 28 *RAP/EDGE-Halloween Dance*
- Nov. 4 *NO CLASS – (Confirmation)*  
 11 **Class Period**  
 18 **Class Period-(Virtus Lesson)**  
 25 *RAP/EDGE*
- Dec. 2 **Class Period-(Reconciliation)**  
 9 *RAP/EDGE*  
 16 **Class Period**  
 23 *NO CLASS - (Christmas)*  
 30 *NO CLASS - (New Year)*

***HOLIDAYS***

- Dec. 23 **Christmas Break**  
 Dec. 30 **New Year**  
 Jan. 20 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
 Feb. 17 **President's Day**  
 Apr. 6 **Spring Break**

**NOTE:**

**Dates for Reconciliation Services:**  
**December 2nd and March 16th**

**FALL EDGE RETREAT:**

**At IHM -Nov. 9- 10<sup>th</sup>**

**UNIT II:**

- Jan. 6 **Class Period**  
 13 *RAP/EDGE*  
 20 *NO CLASS - (MLK)*  
 27 **Class Period**
- Feb. 3 **Class Period**  
 10 *RAP/EDGE*  
 17 *NO CLASS - (President's Day)*  
 24 **Class Period**
- Mar. 2 **Class Period**  
 9 *RAP/EDGE*  
 16 **Class Period – (Reconciliation)**  
 23 *RAP/EDGE*  
 30 **Class Period**
- April 6 *NO CLASS – (Spring Break)*  
 13 *RAP/EDGE*  
 20 *Closing – (Church/Britt Hall)*  
       *(6:55pm-8:30pm)*

**JANUARY EDGE:**

*Diocesan Ski Trip – Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> (Sat.)*

**FEBRUARY EDGE:**

*Children's Carnival - Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> (Sat.)*

*Help Needed*

**THEOLOGY OF THE BODY RETREAT**

*Theology of the Body for required for 8th Grade only*

**\*\*CHOOSE ONE of the FOLLOWING OPTIONS:\*\***

*September 28-29<sup>th</sup> (Sat. & Sun. - Holy Spirit Center)*

**-OR-**

*February 22-23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat. & Sun. - Holy Spirit Center)*