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8/4/17

Dear Families,

It's that time again—time to prepare for a new year of nurturing ourselves and our families spiritually through Children and Family Ministry! Each new catechetical year gives us another opportunity to grow through community, prayer, and knowledge of our Lord.

Each year we've added some new dimensions to Children and Family Ministry, trying to make it an increasingly authentic and spiritually rich experience. While there will be a couple new dimensions this year, as well, I find myself reflecting most often on our **parish value #4: "Embrace noble simplicity."** So this year, we'll focus on taking what we have that's good, and nurturing it together.

One step in moving toward "noble simplicity" is to get us all back under one roof. This year, everyone except the babes in the nursery will be in Sullivan Hall (131 Bigham St). Our Little Hearts Nursery (for 0-3 year olds) will continue to be across the street at what is now Fr. Mele's house (140 Bigham St.). That means we will continue to have our Level One Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program for 3-6 year olds in our atrium shared with Grandview Montessori (on the top level of Sullivan Hall). Everyone in first through eighth grade, however, will be in a Small Discipleship Group in either the gym or cafeteria.

Our first day of the catechetical year will be Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:45am in the Sullivan Hall Gym. This will be both our orientation, as well as the first day of sessions.

Registration forms are attached. Please return them to the rectory (Saint Mary of the Mount Parish, 403 Grandview Ave., Attn: Holly Mohr, Pittsburgh, PA 15211) no later than August 31, 2017.

In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful rejuvenation of the summer. If you're looking for ways to prepare your hearts and minds to dig deeply spiritually before we start, consider reflecting on our parish values:

1. Place spirituality and prayer at the center of our lives.
2. Elevate Gospel and people over Church rules.
3. Encourage stewardship—people's use of their time, talent and treasure.
4. Embrace the noble simplicity of Vatican Council II.
5. Promote the holistic formation of families and individuals in mind, body and spirit.
6. Cultivate transformation of the local community and the world.

See you on September 10. I look forward to it. ☺

Peace and gratitude,

Holly Mohr
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Saint Mary of the Mount Parish
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You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:14)
**CALLED TO BE A BEACON OF GOD'S LIGHT, WE ARE A DIVERSE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY,
STRIVING TO LIVE THE GOSPEL BY LOVING AND SERVING GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR.**