



ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

ST. THOMAS CHAPEL • SPRINGFIELD

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16 July 2023

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dearest Parishioners of St. Margaret:

Catechesis, or the process of education for the faith, is of extreme importance in the life of the Church. It makes an individual's faith become alive, conscious, and active through the light of instruction. Throughout its rich history, the Church has constantly emphasized that parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith, and as the heart of catechesis, the family has a unique privilege of transmitting the Gospel by rooting it in the context of profound human values. This is articulated in the Church's legal Code as it states: *"Parents have a most serious obligation and enjoy the right to educate their children; Christian parents are especially to care for the Christian education of their children according to the teaching handed on by the Church."* (Canon 226).

It is the Church's responsibility, however, not only to *support* parents as they pass on the faith to their children but to *assist* them as well, and this is done in a variety of ways and places. Most education takes place outside of the classroom where children see and experience the faith in action. Liturgy in the parish community is where the proclamation of the Gospel begins and where we are invited to conversion to follow Christ. In turn, the way in which the community responds to the Gospel in worship, education and service will impact all its members.

Still, the Church exercises her role of vigilance in matters of faith. Religious education forms, informs, and transforms. The parish must take care to ensure that catechesis is carried out with attention, and it is the duty of pastors *"to take special care for the Catholic education of children and young adults"* (Canon 528). Because **the pastor is responsible for the religious education of his parishioners**, it is imperative that he structure an adequate program that both meets the needs of the people while remaining vigilant in the Church's mission to preach the Good News throughout the world.

St. Margaret continues to take holistic catechesis seriously; I hope that you join us in learning more about the faith so that we can spread it to others! Contact me should you have any further questions or concerns!

Yours in the Good Shepherd,

Very Reverend Jamin Scott David, JCL
Pastor