SUMMER READING

RELIGION II

For one week of the summer, take time each morning to read the passages and challenge and at night answer the reflection questions.
Please print this packet, have your answers clearly handwritten, and turn in for a grade on the first day of Religion class.
Put which day you completed each assignment below:

- ☐ **DAY 1: WHAT/WHO IS THE CHURCH?**
- ☐ **DAY 2: JESUS FOUNDED THE CHURCH**
- ☐ **DAY 3: HOLY SPIRIT AS LIFE OF THE CHURCH**
- ☐ **DAY 4: PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**
- ☐ **DAY 5: BUILDING COMMUNITY**
- ☐ **DAY 6: ACTUAL & SACRAMENTAL GRACE**
- ☐ **DAY 7: LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST**

Day 1 – What/Who is the Church?

Morning Readings

"What is Christianity all about? What is Catholicism about? Is it only a philosophy of life, a set of teachings to memorize or rules to live by?"

No, Christianity is not an idea but a *reality* that exists in human history. Christianity is about

- a *person*, Jesus Christ, the "founder" of Christianity;
- a *people* that God has formed on the earth;
- a *way of life* that God has given his people."

–Alan Schreck, *The Compact History of the Catholic Church*, p. 1

"Christian prayer is a **covenant** relationship between God and man in Christ. It is the action of God and of man, springing forth from both the Holy Spirit and ourselves." -CCC 2564[1]

"The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live... The heart is our hidden center... The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of **covenant**." -CCC 2563

Challenge: Covenant is an extension of kinship by oath. Reflect on the different "covenant" relationships (ex. Family, friends, etc.) in your life and see how it compares to the covenant of God and His people. What does it mean to be in communion with someone? What does it mean to pray? What/who is the Church?

Night Reflection: Reread the daily passages again and give your reflections on these readings & the challenge for the day in at least 5-7 sentences. What does it mean to be in communion with someone?

[1] CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph number

Day 2 – Jesus Founded the Church

Morning Readings

"What is the *name* of this new people of God? The New Testament calls the followers of Jesus 'the saints' (see Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2), 'God's beloved' (Romans 1:7), 'Christians' (Acts 11:26) and followers of 'the Way' (Acts 19:23). However, the most common name for God's people of the new covenant, the name that has lasted over many centuries, is the *Church*. Although the word *church* is found most frequently in the Acts of the Apostles and the various letters of the New Testament, even Jesus is reported to have used this word for his people. We read in the Gospel of Matthew Jesus' words to Peter: 'And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it' (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus called the Church 'my church.' He is the founder of the Church. He said the Church would never be destroyed: 'The powers of death shall not prevail against it.' Why? Because Jesus promised to remain with his Church until the end of time. Jesus reassured his apostles immediately before his ascension into heaven, 'I am with you always, to the close of the age' (Matthew 28:20)."

–Alan Schreck, *The Compact History of the Catholic Church*, p. 5

"The article of faith about the Church depends entirely on the articles concerning Christ Jesus. The Church has no other light than Christ's; according to a favorite image of the Church Fathers, the Church is like the moon, all its light reflected from the sun." -CCC 748

"The one mediator, Christ, established and ever sustains here on earth his holy Church, the community of faith, hope, and charity, as a visible organization through which he communicates truth and grace to all men" -LG 8[2]

Challenge: Compare a community or group you are part of to the Church. Who founded it? What is the mission or purpose? How does everyone uniquely live out that mission or purpose? What unites each member of that community? Reflect on those same questions in regards to the Catholic Church.

Night Reflection: Reread the daily passages again and give your reflections on these readings & the challenge for the day in at least 5-7 sentences.

[2] LG = Lumen Gentium

Day 3 – Holy Spirit as Life of the Church

Morning Readings

"The promise of the Holy Spirit and the blessing by Jesus' hands have communicated the certainty to them that, even in leaving them visibly, he is not abandoning them but rather making room interiorly for them to be what they have seen him to be – by now having the same Father as he and the same Spirit animating their lives. They must now themselves *become* what they have learned to admire and love."

–Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis, *The Way of the Disciple,* p. 122

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." -John 14:26-27

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" -Acts 1:8

"Members of the school community, open to the transforming power of the Spirit of God, engage in personal and communal prayer, discernment and reflection which inform their actions."
-Goal I, Criteria 6

Challenge: Take a moment to pray today. Invite the Holy Spirit into your day and reflect on the Holy Spirit's presence in the Church today. What is the role of the Holy Spirit? How is that seen in the Church today?

Night Reflection: Reread the daily passages again and give your reflections on these readings & the challenge for the day in at least 5-7 sentences.

Day 4 – Purpose of the Church: Salvation

Morning Readings

“The Church in this world is the sacrament of salvation, the sign and instrument of the communion of God and men.” -CCC 780

“The Church… proclaims the fullness of faith. She bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation. She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times. She is ‘missionary in her very nature.’” -CCC 868

“Note here, first of all, how faith is the beginning of a work of transformation and enlightenment, the world of God’s Spirit in us, accomplishing in us what has already been accomplished in Christ. In other words, his own glorious destiny is ours, too…

Whenever we come together to listen to the Word of God, what we are seeking is not mental information or moral instruction or even a sentimental influence that will make us ‘feel’ the presence and goodness of God. What we seek with all our soul, rather, is the possibility of opening ourselves up in prayer to God’s transforming action. Whether we are fully conscious of it or not, in other words, we desire a change of life, a conversion from what we presently are to a more precise embodiment of the likeness of Christ at the center of our being, radiating from us thought all our thoughts, words, and actions”

–Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis, *The Way of the Disciple,* p. 17-18

Challenge: A Sacrament is an outward sign of an inward reality. List some of the outward signs of the Church and how they point to the inward reality of salvation. What does this change within Christians look like?

Night Reflection: Reread the daily passages again and give your reflections on these readings & the challenge for the day in at least 5-7 sentences.

Day 5 – Building Community as a Christian Value

Morning Readings

“In Christian usage, the word ‘church’ designates the liturgical assembly, but also the local community or the whole universal community of believers. These three meanings are inseparable. ‘The Church’ is the People that God gathers in the whole world. She exists in local communities and is made real as a liturgical, above all a Eucharistic, assembly. She draws her life from the word and the Body of Christ and so herself becomes Christ’s Body.” -CCC 752

“Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to the building of community as a Christian value.” -Goal IV

“The school, affirming that all are created in the image and likeness of God, promotes the inherent dignity of the human person and strives for relationships characterized by inclusion and mutual respect.”
-Goal IV, Criteria 1

“The more ready you are to give yourself to God and to others, the more you discover the authentic meaning of life.” -St. John Paul II

Challenge: Think of one tradition that brings your family closer together. Why does it unite you as a family? What does it say about a value that you hold as a family? Now answer those questions for the Church.

Night Reflection: Reread the daily passages again and give your reflections on these readings & the challenge for the day in at least 5-7 sentences.

Day 6 – Actual Grace & Sacramental Grace

Morning Readings

"The word *grace* simply means a free gift of God… Sanctifying grace is a life in the soul, making it almost a new thing, giving it and its faculties new powers. Actual grace is the divine energy setting the soul in motion towards some particular goal otherwise beyond its reach. Sanctifying grace indwells the soul and abides in it. Actual grace does neither. It does not abide – it is transient, like a wind that blows for a while and then is gone, the whole point being to take advantage of it while it is there." -F.J. Sheed, Theology for Beginners

"Actual grace refers to God's interventions, whether at the beginning of conversion or in the course of the work of sanctification" – CCC 2000

"Sacramental grace is the grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ and proper to each sacrament" – CCC 1129

"Lord, I lean on You alone for strength. Give me your arm to support me, your shoulders to carry me, your Cross to uphold me, your Eucharist to nourish me. On you Lord, I shall sleep and rest in peace."
–St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

"Grasp this fact clearly: Our Lord wishes you to become a great saint. He brought you into this little Society just to give you the means to do so. You can do all things now, if only you are faithful to grace."
–St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, in a letter to St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

Challenge: Notice the different moments where you need someone's help today and when other people need your help. What does it feel like to help someone? What does it feel like to be helped by someone? Reflect on the virtue of humility and on the reality that everyone is in need of help, especially spiritually.

Night Reflection: Reread the daily passages again and give your reflections on these readings & the challenge for the day in at least 5-7 sentences.

Day 7 – Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Morning Readings

"It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the whole world more human and more fraternal." -St. John Paul II

"'Disciple' means 'learner'; 'apostle' means one who is 'sent' – sent to bear the gifts of truth and life and union" -F.J. Sheed, Theology for Beginners

"We have been speaking about 'disciples' and 'apostles' in the plural. No one can be a disciple or an apostle in isolation. Being a member of a group, of a body, is an essential condition for discipleship. How, then, does God make us to be *Church*, which is the proper name for this group and body? How does it feel to belong to the Church? What must the apostles and the disciples have felt during the time between the Ascension and Pentecost, which was the privileged period when the Holy Spirit, by shaping them into the Church, completed within them what Jesus had begun as teacher and friend?"

–Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis, *The Way of the Disciple,* p. 117

"Let us keep our hearts for Jesus; we may love others in him and for him." -St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

Challenge: List three different people who influence you in your life. What has been the impact they have had on how you live? The disciples walked with Jesus for three years. What kind of impact would following Jesus have on how they lived their lives?

Night Reflection: Reread the daily passages again and give your reflections on these readings & the challenge for the day in 5-7 sentences.