

8REL Newsletter – 9.10.19

Hello 8th Grade Parents,

The students have begun Chapter 1, Jesus's Message. Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer because it contains the heart of his message. At Pentecost, Jesus sent his disciples the Holy Spirit to fill them with grace. This grace gave them the strength to spread the Good News, and it helps us live in friendship with Jesus today.

They will then move onto Chapter 2, The Church Grows. Paul, raised as a Pharisee named Saul, persecuted Christians because he believed them to be lawbreakers. One day Jesus spoke to Paul, who became filled with the Holy Spirit. Later, at the Council of Jerusalem, Paul defended the equality of Gentile Christians. Paul's story teaches us that faith and action are necessary for Salvation.

The students just completed their first Second Step lesson on "Working in Groups." Success both in and out of school requires the ability to work well with others, often within groups. In this lesson, students identify and practice skills for successful collaboration while learning one of the group-work structures that will be used in future lessons.

Next week, we will complete Second Step Lesson 2 - "Leaders and Allies". Students can choose to be positive leaders in school and help younger students be more academically and socially successful. Recalling their own experiences, students can develop empathy for younger students.

The 8th graders will participate in their first Confirmation Retreat next Friday, 9/20. We will review the first six Decision Point lessons from last year. In Religion class, we will then discuss our first new lesson on "The Eucharist". That lesson will demonstrate that there are many myths surrounding the Eucharist and then dispel those myths. We will also establish that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and that it is an incredible gift to each of us through the Church. Finally, the lesson will teach the students how to enter into a eucharistic relationship with God, and explain the transformational power the Eucharist can have in their lives.

All materials and assignments can be found on the Google Classroom. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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Mrs. Esquivel

Mrs. Earhart