

## PPC Education Committee

*By Lisa Loewenkamp*

Summer will soon be over, and a new year of religious education will begin. As the new chairman of the Education Committee, I would like to ask everyone for their help. We are responsible for educating our children in the Catholic faith; and, as adults, we are responsible for educating ourselves as well.

If you want to learn more about your faith (you can't teach others what you don't know), please consider attending Fr. Randy Stice's session on Personal Morality on Tuesday, August 26, 7 to 9 pm. at Notre Dame. There is no cost, but you do need to register at [www.dioceseofknoxville.org](http://www.dioceseofknoxville.org). Also, consider joining a Renew group. We will begin sign-ups on September 6 and 7. If you are interested in hosting and/or facilitating a group, please call Lisa Loewenkamp at 636-1308.

*"I need volunteers to help  
with the children's games for our  
Fall Festival of Nations on September 13.  
You may sign up in the Parish Hall  
after any Mass."*

Our committee would like input on the religious education program at Notre Dame. To that end, we are planning to do a survey this year. If you receive a survey form, please complete it. We need to know what we are doing right and what we need to improve.

## RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

*By Judy Collins*

On Tuesday, September 16, we will begin our RCIA program with the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate. It is a time of evangelization - faithfully and constantly, the living God is proclaimed. Thus those who are not yet Christians, their hearts opened by the Holy Spirit, may believe and be freely converted to the Lord and commit themselves sincerely to Him. Baptized Christians may also learn about being a Catholic Christian and may choose to prepare for becoming a Catholic Christian. If you fit in either of these groups or you know someone who does, please contact Judy Collins at 639-0688. We would love to share our faith with you and them.

When I say, "We would love to share our faith," I really mean we. Father John, Father Casey, and several of our parishioners facilitate the program; and interested persons volunteer to be sponsors to share the faith journey with the candidates and catechumens. The classes will meet each Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30. Topics and presenters will be listed in the bulletin.

If you would like to join the RCIA team and facilitate one or more of the sessions, your expertise is needed. If you are open to sharing your faith in a one-to-one relationship, someone needs your guidance as a sponsor. Please contact Judy at 639-0688 if you are interested in being a facilitator or a sponsor.

## Religious Education Schedule of Events

Religious Education Pre-Registration will be after all Masses on August 9, 10, 16, and 17. Cost is \$20 per child with a cap of \$50 per family. Sacramental classes are an additional \$20 per child. **NOTE: The cost increases \$5 per child regardless of cap after August 17 since books not in the initial bulk order will need to be purchased.**

Catechetical Formation Program for the Five Rivers Deanery will begin with an orientation held at St. Mary Church in Johnson City on Saturday, August 16, from 9 am until noon. This session will be followed by Formation Days offered in the fall and spring over a three-year period. The first class is Saturday, October 18, from 9 am until 3 pm at Notre Dame. There is no cost; however, registration is required at [www.dioceseofknoxville.org](http://www.dioceseofknoxville.org). This course will be taught by the Dominican Sisters from Nashville and is open to all teachers, assistants, substitutes, and any interested adults.

Adult Faith Formation: Personal Morality with Fr. Randy Stice will be on Tuesday, August 26, at 7 pm in the parish hall. Registration is requested in order to have enough materials on hand, (See website address above.)

Notre Dame Catechist Dinner Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 27, at 6 pm in the parish hall. Teachers, assistants, and substitutes for elementary and high school classes should attend. Bring your class syllabus.

Elementary School Classes (preschool through eighth grade) begin on Sunday, September 6, at 9:30 am. All students will gather in the Church nave to be introduced to your teachers prior to going to their classrooms.

High School Orientation for students and their families will be a dinner meeting on Wednesday, September 3, at 6 pm in the parish hall. First class is Wednesday, September 10, at 6 pm in the Ganz house. Sophomore students interested in the Sacrament of Confirmation must bring all required paper work to orientation – completed candidate form, sponsor verification letter, sponsor Virtus verification, recent baptismal certificate with notations, and a 3 x 5 photograph.

Renew: Why Catholic? Sign-up begins on Saturday, September 6, and Sunday, September 7, in the parish hall. The book is only \$10 and will be used for the six-week session before Advent and the six-week session during Lent.

Diocesan Day will be on Saturday, November 15, at St. Thomas in Lenoir City with the theme being "My Teaching is Not Mine, but His Who Sent Me" from John 7:16.