

## Words from CCD Coordinator, Jennifer Doloski...

Have you ever heard the expression, “Converts make the best Catholics?” In my 25 years as a CCD teacher and 11 years running the CCD program at St. Patrick’s, I have heard this sentiment shared countless times. I think the reason is this: when an adult chooses to join the Catholic church, he or she, by necessity, becomes a student of the faith.

When we think of students, we think of children. For most of us, our days as a student ended when we graduated from high school, trade school, or perhaps college. We think being a student is not compatible with the responsibilities of a full-fledged adult. Adults have jobs, careers, children, homes, aging parents, etc. Few adults have time to be a student, let alone a student of one’s faith. After all, didn’t our days as a student of our faith end when we left our last CCD class or graduated from Catholic school? And when we do hear of an adult we know juggling the responsibilities of work, home, and family with that of earning some advanced degree, we view their time spent studying as an extraordinary sacrifice.

St. Ambrose said, “There is no time of life past learning something.” I believe, in this season of resolutions, in these days of long, cold nights spent inside, in this era of popular culture dictating morals, this *is* the time of life for we, as adults, to become students of our faith. In researching answers to questions brought to me by CCD students and teachers, attending retreats for catechists and for/with students, and learning from some amazing teachers and mentors, I can recommend several resources to help us become lifelong students of our Catholic faith:

dynamiccatholic.com – We use materials published by author and speaker Matthew Kelly in our Confirmation program. There are many, many books on his site that are offered free – with the only charge being shipping & handling. I bought his book, *Rediscovering Catholicism*, after hearing him speak at a Diocesan retreat for catechists many, many years ago, and have greatly appreciated his conversational style of teaching in that and many other of his titles.

Another book, *YOUCAT*, is the Catechism of the Catholic Church for adolescents and young people. And while it was written for a younger audience, it’s an excellent overview of Church teaching for adults choosing to become students again. It might even spark some conversations between you and the younger students in your life.

Father Mike Schmitz has a series short (4-10 minute) videos (available on YouTube) and podcasts (available on Spotify) that address everything from weekly Gospel readings to “why do Catholics do THAT” kind of questions.

formed.org – Father G arranged for this resource to be available to our group of parishes, and Mrs. Bilot has been working hard to share it with us through announcements, handouts, and Sunday morning film groups. There are literally thousands of audio and video resources available on this site for all ages. On the “sign up” page search for St. Joseph, Marseilles, enter your information, and start browsing!

