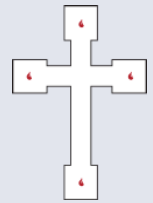


MY JOURNEY CONTINUES...



When I began as Director of Religious Education 5 years ago, I was surprised to find that the job is not all paperwork and registration forms, but the building of relationships with the wonderful families at Holy Cross. Thank you for allowing me to get to know your children and for letting me into your lives. It is true that we find God within the relationships with each other. I know that our friendships will go beyond Holy Cross as I journey towards what God has planned for me.

I want to first thank Mary Pannone, Religious Education Secretary, for all of your dedication and hard work to building this program with me. When I first started as Director, I was advised to treat you as part of the support team, however, I soon realized that you had way more to offer than "just a secretary"! Your creativity, ideas and love for the Religious Education program helped make it flourish. You were a true partner to me, and I couldn't have gotten through the last 5 years without you.

There are many people behind the scenes who spend countless volunteer hours to help make our program run smoothly. Thank you for your support throughout the years. Thank you, Tracy Riley, Karyn Gillan, Josephine Matula, Barbara Hoos, Barbara Burger, Patti Matonti, Michele Alderdice and countless others, (forgive me if I missed your name!) for supporting me and sometimes talking me through some difficult situations. I know that many of the friendships I have built with the people of the parish will go beyond the walls of Holy Cross.

There are over 100 catechists who open their homes to the children of the parish. You are the true heroes of this program because you are on the front line passing down our Catholic faith and continuing our traditions. I know at times teaching our faith is rewarding, but it can also feel like you are not making a difference. Please remember that the seeds you are planting today may not be seen by you in the future, but will grow and bloom. Trust God that He has chosen you for this most important job.

Thank you to Father Michael for having the faith in me and for allowing my creativity to flow through the parish. Thank you to the Parish Team, Jane and Karina, for your love and support.

Lastly, I would like to thank my husband, Kevin, for giving me the foundation and support that I needed to accomplish my goals at Holy Cross. He and my family sacrificed many weekends and many nights without a wife and mother so that I could serve the families of the church.

Where is God leading me? I don't know, He hasn't told me yet. I am looking towards the future with excitement and a sense of adventure. Wish me luck!

With great love and admiration for all of you,

Tricia Clarke