

**Disciple Basics at Our Lady of Charity** July 2-3, 2016

**How many people call themselves disciples at Our Lady of Charity.**

☺ If you are a registered parishioner at Our Lady of Charity, you are considered a disciple of Jesus at Our Lady of Charity. The sacrament of Baptism makes you a disciple, but your registering in the parish acknowledges your work as a disciple in a particular church and community.

☺ Total disciples registered at Our Lady of Charity, 6168

☺ Total disciples attending Mass on the weekend, 900 (average of weekend mass attendance in 2015)  
How many new disciples did we welcome into Our Lady of Charity this past year? (2014—15)

☺ Through the sacrament of Baptism, we welcomed 50 new disciples

☺ Through new parishioners registering in the parish we welcomed 110

**Should I consider myself a Disciple? Use this checklist to help you see if you're a disciple!**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am baptized

\_\_\_\_\_ I go to church on a weekly basis

\_\_\_\_\_ I believe what Jesus taught and preached, and try to live that in my own life

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been confirmed

\_\_\_\_\_ I have gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the last year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I pray everyday

\_\_\_\_\_ I continue to learn about Jesus and my Catholic faith

\_\_\_\_\_ I contribute to the work of the church through my gift of time, talent and treasure, which helps build up God's kingdom.

Any checkmark means we are disciples, but we must be growing and learning about how to check all the lines to be better disciples. We need to ask ourselves, how can we grow in discipleship

**What is our Mission as a Disciple?** July 9-10, 2016

Ultimately, our goal as a disciple is to know Jesus, love Jesus, serve Jesus, follow Jesus and lead others to Jesus. Hopefully as a disciple we understand just how essential the parish is in helping us to accomplish that mission. In this issue of the Discipleship Manual, we will take a brief look at what Jesus' mission is: how we work to accomplish that mission; and how we, as individual disciples, are involved in the relationship between our parish and our mission as disciples.

Here are a few questions to get us started;

1. When was the last time I can say that the parish helped me to become a better disciple? If it did, how?
2. When was the last time I learned something new about being a disciple of Jesus?
3. When was the last time I brought someone to Jesus, through sharing my faith, or by bringing them to church?

These are tough questions!

We need to realize that every single person needs to work hard at being a disciple, and that we have to support each other on the journey. As we move forward, let's keep these questions in our mind and come back to them periodically to see how we are doing. Let's continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit into a deeper discipleship.

**Keep Smiling :)**

**Fr. Bryan**

### **Why Do We Need to be Better Disciples?**

Remember a few weeks ago when the question was asked; "Do I need the church to get to heaven?" We learned that the answer is "Yes." We need each other, we need the church! If we realize that this parish is the one to help us get to heaven, we must be honest and discern how we can better ourselves. If we improve ourselves as disciples, our parish will also naturally thrive and continue to lead more people to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Below is an honest list of some assessments at Our Lady of Charity Parish. We need to name where we are, so that we understand why we need to move forward as disciples. The following list is NOT a comprehensive one, but it names why we need to be reinvigorated in our faith, in our church, in our parish, and in our role as disciples.

1. We became Our Lady of Charity Parish in 2010.
2. Our school was closed in 2012. 3. Our long beloved Pastor retired in 2015.
4. Our feelings have been hurt.
5. Our population is aging.
6. Our involvement in ministry is dwindling.
7. Fewer younger families are involved.
8. Resources are more limited.

9. Change seems to be happening “all at once”... 1

0. It’s not always, “the way it used to be”...

11. “The new priest ...”

12. ... (What is on your list?)

The first disciples had these same feelings. They were merged with other communities, leaders came and went, they were challenged by change and were uncomfortable in their mission and new ideas of people like Saul of Tarsus. Yet, the Holy Spirit worked then, and the Holy Spirit continues to work today in Our Lady of Charity Parish.

In the midst of all of this, the disciples grew and shared their faith. We are living the same reality. Like the first disciples, we too should be questioning, learning, following, but most importantly growing. Each one of us needs to be a better disciple. Therefore, we need to go to the disciple-maker, Jesus. Let’s start being better disciples by going to Jesus more!

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**Disciples are Merciful & Compassionate ... There is so much fear and hatred in the world today. Like the Good Samaritan each of us is being called to treat strangers with mercy & Compassion.**

### **How Well Do We Know Jesus?**

This year our Faith Formation Program will focus on ‘Knowing Jesus’, and as one of his disciples, each one of us needs to ask ourselves “**How Well Do I Know Jesus?**” Therefore our program will be focusing on the basic activities disciples do:

1. Disciples Pray
2. Disciples Worship
3. Disciples Share Faith/Evangelize/Participate in Mission
4. Disciples Grow

Our entire Faith Formation Program this year will focus on forming all of us as disciples in these primary areas.

### **Disciples Grow... and Change!**

Our Parish is moving to a Family Faith Formation Model, so that every person in our parish is involved in teaching and handing on the faith. This will take place in two sessions each month. We need to be

honest about expectations. Disciples face challenges, (p. 2) and need to better themselves. Disciple training through Faith Formation means:

1. Disciple training through Faith Formation will take place one Sunday, and one Monday a month. (Details will follow...)
2. Anyone enrolled in Faith Formation is expected to attend Mass weekly.
3. Families are expected to participate in learning about their faith together. (Sunday program, watch for details to follow.)
4. Families, during the Monday night program, will be asked to accompany one another for a prayer experience, and all ages will be involved in learning about their faith.
5. Having a child enrolled in Catholic School does not mean the family is exempt from parish faith formation. We need to journey together (family/ parish family) no matter where a child attends school.
6. Ideally, First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation will be given when the family is ready for these sacraments, not necessarily based upon age.
7. Adult Disciples must be willing to share and teach faith at home as well as accompany young disciples at faith formation.

This is an exciting time and we are excited to grow together!

### **What Do Disciples Do?**

Disciples participate in Jesus' mission! What is that? + Jesus, as the eternal Word of the Father, is sent to inaugurate the Kingdom of God, to save people from their sins. + Jesus commissions his disciples:

**“Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”** (Matthew 29:19)

### **Where Do Disciples Learn to do What Jesus Commanded? +**

The parish is the place where disciples are gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The parish initiates the Christian people into Jesus' mission; gathers them together in celebration, teaches Jesus' saving doctrine, practices the charity and love of Jesus in good works and love, and empowers disciples to do the same, living out the Gospel.

**Theme for the Year:** Getting to Know Jesus

**Discipleship Training Format:** One Sunday Session and One Monday Session per month.

### **Sunday Discipleship Sessions**

- + Typically will be on the first Sunday of the Month (A complete schedule will follow)
- + Sunday Sessions are always from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and either begin with Mass or end with Mass depending upon location.
- + ALL of our parish family is involved, age appropriate sessions will take place during Sunday sessions and include an adult component to them.
- + Location of sessions will vary between Holy Family Site and St. Ambrose Site.
- + All youth enrolled in our Discipleship Training Program, (religious education) will be expected to attend Mass and class with their family on these Sundays.
- + An entire parish Discipleship Event will take place at the beginning of Advent and Lent. Monday Night Discipleship Sessions
- + Families and children, once a month, will attend a Discipleship session on Monday evening
- + Sessions will begin with prayer experience, adult family members will accompany their child to the session to participate in the prayer experience together.
- + After the prayer experiences, children will be dismissed for Grade appropriate Disciple Classes, and Adults will be formed in the church on how to share and practice faith with their families, as well as discussion on faith topics..
- + Monday Discipleship Sessions are divided between two Monday nights depending upon grade level, Grades 1-4 will take place one Monday day a month, and Grades 5-10 will take place on a different Monday
- + Child care will be available for both Sunday and Monday sessions for those adults who would like to participate fully in the adult sessions.

### **Discipleship Training Program Expectations**

1. Our Parish will pray together, that we will grow in learning and understanding our role as disciples and that our Discipleship Training will be successful.
2. Being enrolled in the program means we take our call to discipleship seriously. Weekly Mass attendance and participation is expected.

3. Adults and youth will pray together.
4. Only 3 absences will be allowed in our Discipleship program for a **non-sacramental** year.
5. Only 2 absences will be allowed in our Discipleship program for a **sacramental year**.
6. Having a child enrolled in Catholic School **does not exempt them** from attending our Parish Discipleship training program. Families with children in Catholic school that are registered at Our Lady of Charity are expected to participate in this program from September thru May. The Parish a child is enrolled in, is responsible for the faith formation of that child and we journey together as a parish family.
7. To receive a Sacrament at Our Lady of Charity, a child **MUST** be registered in our Discipleship Training Program.
8. Attendance at both the Sunday Session and Monday Session is expected for the completion of the Discipleship Program Year.
9. This program will empower families to build a stronger ability to share faith at home, pray together and grow together. Families must be willing to try new ways of growing.

**Is the parish helping me to become a better disciple?** July 16-17

This was the first focus question mentioned in last week's bulletin, so it's only appropriate that we begin here. As a parish family, where we as disciples gather, we must grow together in faith and in answering YES to Jesus' call in our life.

Ultimately, the goal of every parish is to bring people to an encounter with Jesus, teaching them how to be a better disciple. How that has been done has changed through the years, some ways have worked better than others, but the church as a whole must always continue to improve at passing on the faith. The parish must be the center of disciple learning, where we help all people, in all phases of life to know Jesus in their own situations. Our Lady of Charity Parish must be the place where people know they can develop their relationship with Jesus. We must accompany parents, not just before baptism, but throughout the raising of their children. We must show newly married couples how to live as disciples in their married life. We must support those disciples at our parish who are single young adults questioning their faith, or just showing up.

We, as a church, have not always been good at doing this, and we must get better. This process will take time, but we must begin somewhere. This week's edition of our **Discipleship Manual** will look at ways in which we are working to improve the way we do things, beginning with faith formation.

**Keep Smiling :)**

**Fr. Bryan**

**Our New Disciple Formation**

## **Program at Our Lady of Charity Parish**

**Theme for the Year:** Getting to Know Jesus

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- + All youth enrolled in our Discipleship Training Program, (religious education) will be expected to attend Mass and class with their family on these Sundays
- . + An entire parish Discipleship Event will take place at the beginning of Advent and Lent.

### **Monday Night Discipleship Sessions**

- + Families and children, once a month, will attend a Discipleship session on Monday evening
- + Sessions will begin with prayer experience, adult family members will accompany their child to the session to participate in the prayer experience together.
- + After the prayer experiences, children will be dismissed for Grade appropriate Disciple Classes, and Adults will be formed in the church on how to share and practice faith with their families, as well as discussion on faith topics..
- + Monday Discipleship sessions are divided between two Monday nights depending upon grade level, Grades 1-4 will take place one Monday day a month, and Grades 5-10 will take place on a different Monday
- + Child care will be available for both Sunday and Monday sessions for those adults who would like to participate fully in the adult sessions.

### **Discipleship Training Program Topical Format Discipleship Learning Topics:**

September: Learning what Disciples Do.

October: Learning how to talk about Jesus.

November: Jesus invites us to commit, do we?

December: Share some faith at home, learning how!

January: Growing and Knowing in faith.

February: What's it mean to act like a disciple?

March: Experiencing Jesus' Mercy!

April: Experiencing Hope, Joy, Love!

May: Choosing to Walk with Jesus.

Essentially, disciples do four things:

1. Pray
2. Worship
3. Share faith/evangelize
4. Grow in faith

Our **Discipleship Training Program** will focus our attention in these four areas topically, and give practical help to live our lives as a disciple of Jesus.

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### **Disciples in Training (D.I.T.) Leaders needed!**

We need committed volunteers to help in the many aspects of our new D.I.T. program. Volunteers will receive all of the Discipleship Basic Training that you need to help in this endeavor. Consider these areas:

1. D.I.T. Basic trainer (works with young children)
2. D.I.T. Hospitality station (assists on program days)
3. D.I.T. Guide (Assists in classrooms)
4. D.I.T. Mentor (Helps lead classroom sessions)
5. Child Care

If you can help, please call Fr. Bryan at 822-596

### **Discipleship Training Program Expectations**

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2. Being enrolled in the program means we take our call to discipleship seriously. Weekly Mass attendance and participation is expected.
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8. Attendance at both the Sunday Session and Monday Session is expected for the completion of the Discipleship Program Year.
9. This program will empower families to build a stronger ability to share faith at home, pray together and grow together. Families must be willing to try new ways of growing as a disciple at home as well as in the program.

**Dear Parish Family,** July 24, 2016

This is the week! Summerfest setup, final preparations and activities abound at Our Lady of Charity. I ask that everyone pray for a successful Summerfest, and that all who join us may find Jesus here and a warm welcome. God, help us to bring others to know you through our Summerfest event.

Also, I would like to inform you that we have hired a new Music Director for Our Lady of Charity Parish! Mr. Brian Meyer will be joining us on staff at Our Lady of Charity Parish beginning August 1. He brings much enthusiasm, energy and knowledge to the parish. Please welcome him as he begins to share his vocation with us.

**Lord, teach us...**

As a brief recap, our trends in the parish show us that we have to do things differently if we are going to remain vibrant in the future. Last weekend I explained what the new format for our **Discipleship Program** would look like, particularly in religious education; and that we need to have some honest expectations of those who are growing as disciples.

This may leave some of us questioning, and wondering, ‘What is being asked of us?’ What does this program mean for me, as a child, ... a parent, ... a young adult, ... a single adult, ... a grandparent, ... a senior citizen? I am hoping this week’s **Discipleship Manual** will answer some of these questions. As I ask each of us to commit to the new format this weekend, we must first pray for the program and that we may follow the guiding of the Holy Spirit.

**Keep Smiling :)**

**Fr. Bryan**

**Disciples Grow**

**Discipleship Program for...**

### **Adults without Young Disciples**

+ This group consists of adults who are single, ... adults who never had children, ... older adults who no longer have children at home,... the more mature adult who might have gray hair.

#### Sunday Program:

+ Adults will attend Mass together, beginning a deeper awareness of Discipleship. Following Mass, the adult session will develop the thematic topic of the month, in understanding one's role of being a disciple.

+ This is meant for all adults who are looking to deepen their faith and grow in discipleship.

#### Monday Program:

+ Adults will participate in the shared prayer experience in church.

+ Adults will participate in an adult component of Discipleship Enrichment. The topic will vary based upon time of year, a schedule of specific topics will follow soon.

### **Young Adults**

+ Those who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, ... those finishing high school, ... in college,... starting in the job world,... young couples who may be newly married, ... up to age 40.

#### Sunday Program:

+ Young adults will attend Mass, participate in large group discussion at the start of the Sunday Discipleship Program.

+ Young adults will then break into their own separate group to discuss faith topics relevant to their state in life

. + The topics will deepen young adult discipleship and bring an awareness of the young adult's choice in following Jesus

#### Monday Program:

+ Young adults will participate in the shared prayer experience in church.

+ They will break into a small group and continue to develop their discipleship awareness through media, scripture and faith sharing.

### **Discipleship Program for...**

**Those Wanting to Become Catholic! Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

+ Anyone who is interested in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church is welcome to attend these sessions!

#### Sunday Program:

+ Those interested in becoming Catholic will gather prior to Mass to discuss what it means to become a disciple.

+ Attendance at Mass will be incorporated into the program as you progress in the knowledge of the faith.

+ Sharing sessions will help you to understand what you are seeking by wanting to become a disciple.

+ A team of disciples will share and grow with you as you begin your own journey.

#### Monday Program:

+ Participation in shared prayer experience in church.

+ Specific discipleship training topics to help you learn the faith, know Jesus, encounter him and choose to walk with him.

### **Inquiry Sessions Coming Soon**

Watch the bulletin for times and places when you will be able to ask questions and get more information about the RCIA Program.

### **Discipleship Program for Parents and Young Disciples**

#### **Parents / Guardians**

+ You are the first teachers of the faith to your children, our program is going to help you do that. Sunday Program + Parents / Guardians will attend Mass with their children.

+ Parents / Guardians will have an opportunity to share their own faith experiences, struggles, concerns as well as deepening their own faith.

+ Parents / guardians will learn about their own discipleship and how Jesus is working in their life. Monday Program

+ Parents / Guardians will have a regular opportunity to bring their children for prayer in church. The first 15 minutes will be a prayer experience for children and their parents / guardians together.

+ Parents / Guardians will also learn what their children are learning, and how to support the lesson at home.

### Young Disciples

+ Young Disciples need support to grow in the faith and to recognize the Holy Spirit at work in their lives. The Discipleship Program will help you know why Jesus loves you, and why you need to allow Jesus into your life.

### **Sunday Program**

+ Young Disciples will attend Mass with their family

+ Young Disciples will learn a specific trait of being a disciple of Jesus, with their Family. Then they will break out into age appropriate groups to talk about how to grow as a disciple.

### **Monday Program**

+ Young disciples will attend a prayer experience with their parent/guardian. +Young disciples will be dismissed after the prayer experience into Grade appropriate classes to learn about our faith and Jesus.

### **Fair Time!**

Growing up, fair time always meant that the summer was wrapping up, and it was getting close to back to school! As we are already midway through August, this comes to mind again, especially as we prepare for our Discipleship Program. This week's edition is letting you know where we need some help, and other important information.

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**The Literacy Through Music** program wrapped up last week, and the kids had a blast! Thanks to Laura Kazmierczak and Lyn Rezabek for leading this program. This week, our parish **Discipleship Manual** takes a look at the people we need for the program. See if you can help!

**Keep Smiling :)**

**Fr. Bryan**

### **Discipleship Training Program Volunteer Opportunities**

Our Discipleship Training Program is an exciting endeavor, but we need help for the various aspects of the program. Please prayerfully consider helping out in one of the following areas. If you can help, please mark the area and put it in the collection basket, or call the parish office to let us know.

### **Sunday Program Needs 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Childcare**, watching young disciples who aren't old enough to attend sessions yet

\_\_\_\_ **Faith Formator/Disciple Trainer/Catechist** Age appropriate group leader to help facilitate small group discussions

\_\_\_\_ **Hospitality Coordinators**, willing to setup coffee, snacks, welcome and guide our Disciples in Training to the appropriate places

\_\_\_\_ **Adult Session Leaders**, we need people willing to help coordinate our adult sessions

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**Monday Program Needs**

**6:15-7:45 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_ **Childcare**, watching young disciples who aren't old enough to attend sessions yet

\_\_\_\_ **Faith Formator/Disciple Trainer/ Catechist**, Grade Level appropriate adult to help pass our faith on to young disciples Do You have a preferred grade level? (Grade)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Aide to Faith Formator/ Disciple Trainer/ Catechist**, this person assists in the classroom and helps ensure all young disciples are engaged

\_\_\_\_ **Hall Monitor**, someone who maintains the safety of our young disciples, making sure there is an adult around if needed

\_\_\_\_ **Mature Adult Group Leader**, someone who can help lead our mature adults without kids to grow in faith

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**End of Summer Update!** August 21,2016

I'm actually writing this column before I go on vacation (August 9)... so I thought I would give you a little 'status update' on everything going on to keep us all in the loop.

By now the sound system at Holy Family is complete and the organ at Holy Family is well under way of being repaired from the water leaks. (Organ repairs were paid by insurance.)

At our St. Ambrose site you may have noticed the new Mary statue in our Peace Garden. This statue came from St. Clare's in the First Ward. St. Clare's Church closed in June and is merged with St. Teresa's. A number of St. Clare's parishioners have joined us here at Our Lady of Charity Parish and we welcome them into our faith community. Our parish acquired several items from the St. Clare community which you will see introduced over some time, but the most obvious acquisition is the outdoor Mary statue.

Our Discipleship Training Program is moving forward and is creating a very positive buzz. Faith formation across the country is moving in this direction and we can be proud that the program we are offering here at our parish is on the cutting edge. If you have any questions about the program, ... involvement in the program, ... whether volunteering or registering to participate, ... do not hesitate to call the parish office at 822-5962. Remember, our kick-off weekend is only two weeks away (September 10, 4:00 p.m.), Cazenovia Park!

**Enjoy these last beautiful days of summer!**

**Keep Smiling :)**

**Fr. Bryan**

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**Catholic School Students ...**

**should they attend our Discipleship Program or not?**

**YES!**

Any family that has their child enrolled in Catholic schools, should still enroll your family in our Discipleship Training Program. That means you would be attending our Discipleship Training sessions on Sunday mornings and Monday nights.

Catholic Education is an investment in the education of a child, and it is a quality investment. Our Lady of Charity Parish Discipleship Program is a formation program on living as a disciple and as a registered parishioner. It is the responsibility of the parish to care for you and your child's soul. A Catholic School's primary responsibility is to educate in a Catholic environment, and provide religion class. The parish is the place where your family is provided with a sacramental foundation and is the place to strengthen family discipleship. The parish is responsible for forming your spirit and soul; Catholic education is responsible for educating your brain.

Enrolling in the Discipleship program is how we guarantee that your encounters with Jesus through the sacraments continue throughout your life. An individual's time in a Catholic school will end, but their time in a parish is forever. Help us to care for your family's best intention by growing as disciples with us.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office at 822-5962.

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## **Discipleship Training Program**

### **Fall Schedule of Events**

#### **Mark Your Calendars!**

**Saturday, Sept. 10 4:00 p.m. Cazenovia Park**

#### **Mass, Family Day & Registration**

**September 10-11** Registration at all Masses

Monday, Sept. 19 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr 1-5 & Adults at St. Ambrose

Monday, Sept. 26 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr. 6-10 & Adults at St. Ambrose

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**Sunday, Oct. 2** 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Family Day at Holy Family

Theme: The Rosary

Monday, Oct. 17 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr 1-5 & Adults at St. Ambrose

Monday, Oct. 24 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr. 6-10 & Adults at St. Ambrose

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**Sunday, Nov. 6** 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Family Day at St. Ambrose

Theme: Commitment

**Monday, Nov. 14** 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr 1-5 & Adults at St. Ambrose

Monday, Nov. 21 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr. 6-10 & Adults at St. Ambrose

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**Sunday, Dec. 4** 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Family Day at St. Ambrose

Theme: Bringing Jesus Home

Monday, Dec. 12 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr 1-5 & Adults at St. Ambrose

**Monday, Dec. 19** 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Gr. 6-10 & Adults at St. Ambrose

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### **A Few Important Points to Remember ...**

+ All parishioners are invited to participate in the  
“Family Days” that take place one Sunday a month.

There will be break-out sessions for adults without  
children. It will be a wonderful opportunity for all of  
us to update our understanding of our faith!

+ The Monday evening sessions include an adult  
section. These will offer the same reflections and  
information on both Mondays of the month. You do  
not have to attend both. Parents and other adults can  
choose which date they want to attend.

Registration Weekend

for Disciples in Training!

September 10-11, is Registration Weekend for our  
Disciples in Training. Registration will take place at  
our Feast Day Celebration in Cazenovia Park, as  
well as at all Masses on Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you as

Disciples in Training!



+++ Canonization of Mother Teresa On September 4, Mother Teresa, will be canonized by Pope Francis. Mother Teresa was widely known as a living saint as she ministered to the sick and the dying in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the world. Although some people criticized her for not also challenging the injustices that kept so many people so poor and abandoned, her simple service touched the hearts of millions of people of all faiths. (Catholic News Service) Here are some wise words from Mother Teresa: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." "Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness." **Registration Weekend for Disciples in Training! September 10-11,**

is Registration Weekend for our Disciples in Training. Registration will take place at our Feast Day Celebration in Cazenovia Park at 4:00 p.m., as well as at all Masses on Sunday. We look forward to welcoming you as Disciples in Training!

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### **Knowing... 'Following' Jesus**

Do we know Jesus? Would we recognize him if he was in our midst? To be a disciple of Jesus we have to know the One who we are following. Our technological world today even utilizes the term 'followers'.

If we can follow each other on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Snapchat](#) and get information in an instant on the internet ('Google it'), we need to ask ourselves how much effort do we put into following Jesus?

*Take note... here are some interesting facts... While the U.S. did not lead global markets in terms of amount of time spent on social media networks, it was far and away the highest consumer of monthly data, spending the most time per day on their phones with a staggering 4.7 hours. Considering that the average American is awake for just over 15 hours a day (seeing as we sleep for an average of eight hours and 42 minutes), this means that we spend approximately a third of our time on our phones. Sure, using your smartphone isn't mutually exclusive with completing other activities, but still, 4.7 hours is a significant chunk of the day. So do yourself a favor and try to unplug from that tiny little screen for awhile. You may be surprised at how much more you can accomplish with an extra few undistracted hours in your day.*

Read more: <http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/informate-reportsocial-media-smartphone-use/#ixzz4IDAFunyT> Follow us: @digitaltrends on Twitter | digitaltrendsftw on Facebook

And, just so we don't blame our young people, the study reported that highest compulsive use of social media was with adults between the age of 25-54, who check social media 17 times per day. How about trying this for a single day... saying a prayer every time we check social media, or read the newspaper, or go on the internet, or click on the TV? Think that will help us "Know Jesus?"

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### **Year of Mercy Checklist**

As the Year of Mercy continues consider the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy as guides to help us become more merciful, and loving. If we want to know God's merciful Son, we must show mercy to one another. Let's ask ourselves, how are we doing in this Year of Mercy? Are we making an extra effort to...

#### **Corporal Works of Mercy**

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Visit the imprisoned
5. Shelter the homeless
6. Visit the sick
7. Bury the dead

#### **Spiritual Works of Mercy**

1. Admonish the sinner
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Counsel the doubtful
4. Comfort the sorrowful
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive all injuries
7. Pray for the living and the dead

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### **Canonization of Mother Teresa**

On September 4, Mother Teresa, will be canonized by Pope Francis. Mother Teresa was widely known as a living saint as she ministered to the sick and the dying in some of the poorest

neighborhoods in the world. Although some people criticized her for not also challenging the injustices that kept so many people so poor and abandoned, her simple service touched the hearts of millions of people of all faiths. (Catholic News Service) Here are some wise words from Mother Teresa: “

**If you judge people, you have no time to love them.”**

**“Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.”**

### **Parish Feast Day!**

**Our Lady of Charity Parish Feast Day is Thursday, September 8.** Since our feast day falls on a Thursday, we are moving the celebration to our Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. in Cazenovia Park! A parish feast day is a time to come together and celebrate as a community of faith. Our parish is guided by the patronage of Our Lady of Charity, one of only three parishes in the United States dedicated under that title of Our Lady. As a parish dedicated to Our Lady, we seek her guidance each and every day in saying “YES” to God’s will, in bringing charity to life, and to always point one another to Jesus, her son.

Our Lady of Charity, Pray for us!

Come and celebrate together!

### **How many more sleeps?**

Next weekend, we kick-off our Discipleship Training Program at our parish feast day celebration!!! That is only 5 or 6 more sleeps depending on when you are attending Mass this weekend. I cannot think of a better day to begin our Discipleship Training Program, as Our Lady of Charity will certainly help inspire us to be better disciples. I hope and pray that everyone will give our Discipleship Training Program a try. I encourage you to come and learn something more about your faith and deepen your relationship with Jesus. Come, see what all the fuss is about! Most importantly, please pray in a special way this week for our parish as we celebrate our Patronal Feast Day. Pray for our Discipleship Training Program and our parish formation as disciples this coming year.

**Keep Smiling :)**

**Fr. Bryan Parish**

### **Feast Day Celebration!**

**Answers to some questions...**

#### **What do I need to bring?**

1. Bring a lawn chair if you can. We will provide some chairs at the site, but not a large number.

2. Bring some money with you to purchase food and to register for the Discipleship Training Program..

3. Bring your family, friends

**Where in Cazenovia Park is this?**

+ We will gather at the Casino building. Mass will be on the pad area.

**What happens after Mass?**

+ We will have a meal together ... chicken barbecue from the Boy Scouts (which is why you need money to buy food, or you can bring a picnic to the park!)

+ After the meal we will kick-off our Discipleship Training Program with a short activity for all people!

+ Registration for our Discipleship Training Program will take place during the entire event (except during Mass of course). Several leaders in the program will be available to register individuals and families, or to answer any questions that you may have.

**What if it rains?**

+ We need to pray that it doesn't, but if it is raining at 3:00 p.m. in South Buffalo, we will have Mass at St. Ambrose Worship Site, with our meal, activities and registration in the

school gym.

Is there normal 4:00 p.m. Mass at St.

Ambrose that day?

+ No... everyone is asked to go to the park for

Mass, unless it rains. (See above)

### **What do I need to bring money for?**

1. Food

2. Registering for our Discipleship Training Program

(\$50 per family, \$20 for an individual)

+ No one is turned away due to lack of resources.

### **Registration Weekend for Disciples in Training!**

September 10-11, is Registration Weekend for our Disciples in Training. Registration will take place at our Feast Day Celebration in Cazenovia Park at 4:00 p.m., as well as at all Masses on Sunday. We look forward to welcoming you as Disciples in Training!

### **Happy Feast Day!** (September 10-11)

**Why do we celebrate a feast day? The actual feast day of Our Lady of Charity is September 8, but we wanted to celebrate our patronal feast as a parish community, so we are celebrating in a special way this weekend! This weekend we celebrate as a parish our Patron, Our Lady of Charity. It is under her guidance that we as a parish lead people to know Jesus. What better patron could we have than our Blessed Mother?! Our Lady always points us towards her Son, Jesus. We, as a parish, are called on this weekend to rededicate ourselves to the example of Our Lady and point others to know Jesus by our words and actions.**

**This weekend is also our Discipleship Training Registration weekend. I am asking that we pray for the success of our Discipleship Training Program and for those who are helping to lead, coordinate, teach, participate, or volunteer in any way. The future of our parish depends on the success of how we pass on and strengthen the faith not only in the 'next' generation, but also in all of us. If we do not continually learn about our faith it becomes easy to be stagnant. A stagnant Catholic, Christian, person is one who believes they already know everything they need to know. This is very unhealthy**

for a person because we need to work constantly on our relationship with Jesus. We can always learn more, grow, and more importantly, be the example by our participation to the younger generation.

May Our Lady of Charity continue to guide us to her Son Jesus, and may we open our hearts and minds to deepen that relationship.

Keep Smiling :)

Fr. Bryan

### What does it mean to “Know Jesus?”

As our Discipleship Training Program begins it’s time to begin exploring our topic for the year, and our focus for the month of September.

We can know a person in many different ways. I can know of a person; I can know them as an individual from history; I can know their family; and I can also know them by having a relationship with them.

All of us know Jesus as a person from history and through scripture. Our challenge becomes knowing Jesus in a relational way. As we begin this year in Discipleship Training, our focus is going to be helping all those who participate, to know Jesus in a real relationship. The scriptures tell us that we can have that kind of relationship with Jesus and our celebration at Mass reminds us that we are connected to the person of Jesus through history, made real today in our Eucharistic celebration.

In the coming weeks, I encourage all of us to think about the following question: **When I want to get to know someone better, how do I go about doing that?**

Every one of us has our own way of getting to know people better. Think about that question for yourself, and ask yourself if you’ve ever applied that principle to getting to know Jesus better.

Next week we will look at what our children will be learning about in the first class of their Discipleship Training so we can all support them in their learning.

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### We Remember... September 11, 2001

As we focus on knowing Jesus, we also need to focus on the peace Jesus intends for our world and our lives. This weekend, may we take an extra minute or two to say a prayer for that peace that we certainly need in our world. May we work continually for that peace in our family, neighborhood, church, country and world.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...

May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Amen

### **Grade 10 Confirmation Preparation**

Sophomore (or Junior) students who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation must be:

- registered in Our Lady of Charity Parish;

- registered and participating in our Discipleship Training Program;
- attend scheduled family day programs on the first Sunday of each month;
- attend 10th grade faith formation classes on the last Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted);
- attend a Confirmation retreat (to be scheduled for August 2017);
- attend 2-3 preparatory classes in August 2017 specific to Confirmation; · participate in class service projects to be determined during class;
- turn in all appropriate paperwork and information necessary as required by the Diocese of Buffalo.

Important New Information

- Candidates for Confirmation will be in their junior year of high school;
- The sacrament of Confirmation will not be offered until the fall of 2017 and then in the fall of each year. There will be no spring Confirmation;
- Candidates must attend 10th grade faith formation classes as well as the requirements listed above in order to be confirmed at OLCP.

**“Excuse me, I’m looking for Jesus. Can you help me?”** (September 17-18)

**What if someone came to you and asked you that question. What would you say? How would you describe Jesus? As we begin our Discipleship Training Program we are going to work at growing in faith together, at becoming better disciples. This first question will form our Discipleship Training for the month of September. Our faith formation classes will focus on this question, and each age level will learn different aspects of who Jesus is, from knowing Jesus as a human being, to knowing Jesus as the Son of God, to knowing Jesus as a personal friend. All of us, during this month, are asked to ponder and perhaps even meditate on the question above.**

**So, here are some suggestions to help us to grow and enter into the conversation for Discipleship Training for September. I encourage you, give it a try.**

- 1. On the way to and from church have a conversation with your car mates. Ask the question “How would you help someone find Jesus?”, or “How would you describe Jesus?”**
- 2. Place a sheet of paper on the kitchen table, write the name ‘Jesus’ in the middle and each day, have anyone who enters your kitchen write one descriptive characteristic or quality they would use to**

describe Jesus. At the end of each week in September review those qualities with your family/friends and circle the one that speaks to you.

3. Choose one friend a day and write the quality that you love about your friend. Choose a different friend, or family member, each day if possible (you can use a person more than once if you'd like). During September, keep track of those qualities and at the end of the month, see if those combined qualities would be a good description of Jesus.

Please continue to pray for the success of our Parish, and our Discipleship Training Program. If you need child care during the adult session, just call and let us know so we can prepare.

Keep Smiling :)

Fr. Bryan

### Discipleship Training Program, Exciting Times!

**Registration:** Last weekend we had our enrollment in our Discipleship Training Program. For the first time registering in a program like this, we had a great response! Over 110 adults plan on growing in their discipleship, and 100 young disciples will grow in our program. The faith stations also allowed us to get an idea of what those registering are looking for in our program this year.

Some of the hopes and goals included:

1. Help me to grow stronger in my faith with my family.
2. I want to know how to help my daughter and encourage her to grow in faith.
3. Help me 'unplug' my family to interact with each other.
4. Keep it fun, show me how faith can be fun and relevant.
5. I want to learn how to say the rosary.
6. Can we volunteer together as part of the program?
7. Help me learn about the liturgy and why the priest wears different colors.
8. Can we start a youth choir and use our youth to play at mass and sing?
9. Can we incorporate witness talks into the program, we love to hear people share their faith

. There were many more comments that will help us guide our program in the coming year. Please know it is not too late to register if you haven't already. Simply come to the appropriate Monday session, and registration information will be available for you.



Our first Monday session for grades 1—5 is Monday, September 19. Please arrive at 6:15 for a prayer experience and discipleship sessions until 7:45.

September 26 is our first session for grades 6—10.

ANY questions, please call the parish office at 822— 5962.

**This Sunday is Catechetical Sunday... say a special prayer for everyone in our parish as we embrace our Disciples in Training Program.**