

Office of Evangelization and Family Life Staff

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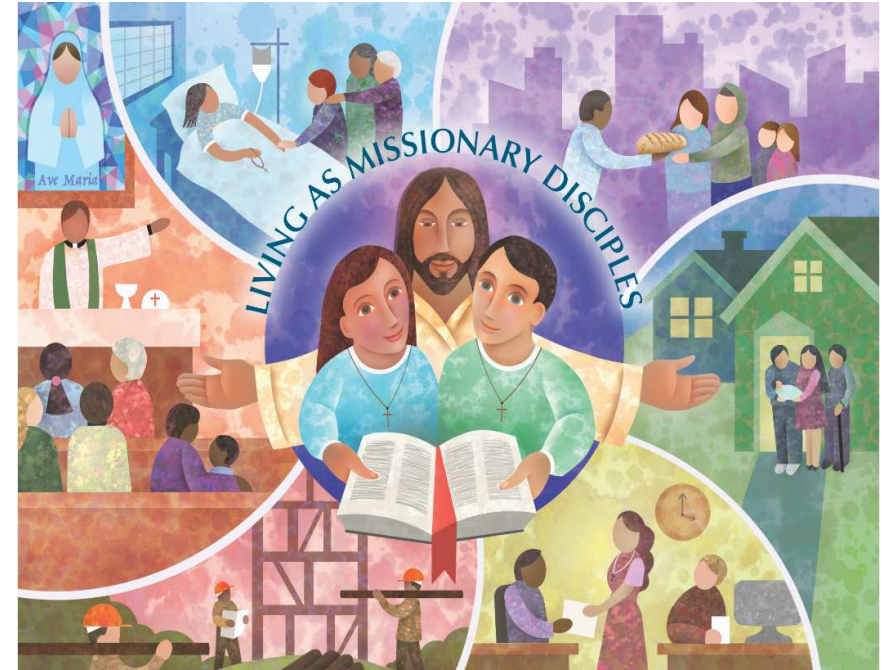
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Office of Evangelization and Family Life

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Guide for Religion Chairpersons

Mobile/Baldwin areas

2017

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year

Thank you for taking the leadership role as Religion Chairperson for your school. You are important to the mission of the Office of Religious Education and the Catholic Identity of your school.

This year's USCCB Catechetical theme: *Living as Missionary Disciples* calls all of us to proclaim the Gospel to all we meet. This year's theme is perfectly suited for the enhanced mission of our Office for Evangelization and Family Life. This year, we will focus this theme of Evangelization with special focus on the family.

As Religion Chairperson, your responsibilities depend upon the needs of your school community and the vision of your principal. There are several expectations that the Office of Religious Education deems necessary for every Religion Chairperson.

Meetings

You are asked to represent your school by attending the Religion Chairperson meetings during the year. These meetings are planned to support you and your school with prayer and religious education resources. Meeting together gives us an opportunity for collaborative planning and sharing of creative ideas. Following the meetings you are asked to share the resources and information with your principal and the faculty.

2017-2018 Dates: Sept 25, Nov 13, Jan 8, Mar 12

The OEFL website www.mobilefaithformation.org

As Religion Chairperson, we ask that you be familiar with the OEFL website. This is where you will find the Religion Curriculum Guidelines, the OEFL calendar, the School Profile, the e-Echo and other pertinent information.

As chairperson, you are asked to ensure that every religion teacher has his/her own copy of the *Religion Curriculum Guidelines* for their grade level. In particular, give guidance to the 'new' religion teacher. The *Religion Curriculum Guidelines* can be found on the Office of Religious Education website: www.mobilefaithformation.org

You are asked to be familiar with the catechetical and liturgy planning resources

available at your school and those available through the OEFL. All resources including media are located in the library at the Office for Evangelization and Family Life and can be found on opac.libraryworld.com. You will be the person contacted regarding overdue or lost resources for your school. Your help in this matter is much appreciated.

OEFL School Visits

The Director will visit each school twice a year to give short presentations on Catholic topics for the faith formation of the faculty. We ask that you introduce the Director and follow-up with distributing handouts provided by the OEFL.

The Director or Associate will visit a limited number of schools during the year.

OEFL sponsored events

We ask that the school faculty and staff register for classes, celebration days, and other events through you, the religion chairperson. One person sending registrations to the OEFL keeps the registration accurate and lessens redundancy.

Textbook evaluations

When a school desires to change the religion textbook series, the Religion Chairperson will work with the principal in developing a process for selecting religion textbooks/series. Samples of religion textbook series(s) are available at the OEFL. The OEFL will be available to assist you in the process.

St. John XXIII Catechist program

The St. John XXIII Catechist Program has three parts-Theological, Spiritual and Methodological. To complete the Theological component, catechists will attend "Be Prepared" apologetics sessions in "live" or recorded formats. In addition to attending these monthly presentations, catechists will also complete short reading and viewing assignments and take a short assessment. One of the resources for the St. John XXIII Catechist Program is the New Catholic Answer Bible. Please see the OEFL website or call the OEFL for more information about the Spiritual and Methodological components of the program.