

# SPOTLIGHT

St. Mary of the Annunciation Newsletter

## Teen Catechists Share Their Faith

This summer, three high school students of the parish volunteered their time to pass on the Catholic faith to young children in St. Mary's summer religious education program. Matt Truesdale, Jack Bartz, and Liesl Melnick attended St. Mary's religious education program when they were younger and always loved when there were high school students teaching. This inspired them to become catechists and share their faith. Matt and Jack team up to help teach the 5th grade students, and Liesel worked with the 7th graders. The teen catechists led students in discussions about their faith, scripture readings, games, skits, art projects, and prayer.

Matt commented, "The students are always full of energy and excitement when the teens will be leading the meeting." He said he hoped that his students, "find a renewed interest in their Catholic faith, and that they grow deeper in their relationship with God."

Liesel reflected on what peer ministry means to her, "Summer REP is an opportunity for me to dedicate two weeks to the service of the Lord, and it has become one of the most enjoyable parts of my summer. My classes are always fun because the students are excited and curious about their faith. I have learned that being a catechist enables me to bring the joy of God to others even outside my classroom. I remember that when I was a little kid going through religious education, I always thought it was really cool when there was a teen helping out. I think the kids like to have younger people helping out with REP, so that's part of the reason I decided to join the crew!"

Teen catechists are also active throughout the school year with the junior high youth group REP program. They serve as discussion leaders and peer ministers for seventh and eighth graders on Tuesday nights under the director of Grant Bright, Youth Ministry Coordinator, and a team of adult volunteers.

Both he and Mrs. Sue Matousek, Director of Religious Education, are always looking for high schoolers who love sharing their faith and would like to teach classes of religious education.

If you or your teen would be interested in this service opportunity, please contact Sue Matousek at [SMatous@stmota.org](mailto:SMatous@stmota.org) or Grant Bright at [gbright@stmota.org](mailto:gbright@stmota.org).