

*Share your faith,
Renew your spirit . . .
Become something new*

I chose to be a catechist because I felt a nudge from the Spirit to share our faith, and I chose 6th graders because I particularly wanted to help foster a more mature relationship with God appropriate to adulthood. Many folks, when hearing I had chosen to do this, were curious about why I'd get involved with Religious Education, knowing that I have three daughters at St. Giles school where religious education is built into the regular curriculum.

Well, for starters: our whole parish is our extended family. I'm grateful for the education my kids get; one way I can show my gratitude is by giving that same gift to somebody else. Furthermore, I feel that a lot of agnosticism, atheism, and apostasy in our time is due to a lack of an adult concept of who God is, and I wanted to re-introduce Him to kids at their more mature levels of understanding. Maybe a solid understanding of God now will help keep them grounded in the future.

I'm glad I spent the years I did teaching Religious Education. It has been said again and again that one learns by teaching, and that's because it is true. This is not only true of the "facts" one teaches; it is surprising how frequently the liturgical calendar enhanced my lessons and my lesson planning enhanced my understanding of the liturgy.

There is a give-and-take from teaching Religious Ed which is very clearly from the Holy Spirit. Now that my own children are getting older, I can use what I've learned to teach them. For those who feel the nudge, I would encourage them to take the plunge. If you have gratitude for what God does in your life, then the best way to show that gratitude is to share it. It is part of what it means to participate in the Divine Life.



~Chris Reisor
Former Traditional RE Catechist

Chris is also a lector and Eucharistic minister, husband and father of three daughters at St. Giles school.

Interested in having a similar experience?

Contact Marrey Picciotti, Parish Life & Formation Director at mpicciotti@stgilesparish.org / 708.383.3430 x 408 to learn about all of our programs and the opportunities for you to **Share, Renew . . . and Become**