

St. Joseph's RLF Total Youth Ministry
"I Believe"—"We Believe": an in-depth study of Catholic Faith Tradition
Freshman Faith Formation Syllabus

Thursdays of September 2006 – May 2007
Justin J. Hartwell: Whole Parish Catechist & Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Office Location:	St. Joseph School, Room 111		
Office Hours:	8:00 – 5:00 Weekdays (Except during class times)		
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E-Mail Address:	jhartwell@stjosephsrlf.org		
TYM Web Page:	www.stjosephsrlf.org/youth_ministry.php		
Class Session Schedule:	1 st Qtr. Sept. 14	—	Nov. 2: 8:25-9:15
	2 nd Qtr. Nov. 9	—	Jan. 11: 9:19-10:09
	3 rd Qtr. Jan. 18	—	Mar. 15: 10:09-11:03
	4 th Qtr. Mar. 22	—	May 17: 1:21-2:11

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an opportunity for young faith-seekers, with guidance, to explore the faith that we profess (the Creed) to believe as Catholics. The sessions and activities presented throughout this course are designed to deepen the understanding of core Catholic beliefs and to facilitate an appreciation and growth of the faith-seeker's Catholic identity.

B. COURSE TOPICS, DATES AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

Refer to the "Course Outline" handout which is also available online on the course web page.

C. RESOURCES:

1. Text (required): *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*
2. Text (required): *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. Handouts (will be provided when necessary)

D. EXPECTATIONS OF THE FAITH-SEEKER:

To come to class promptly and properly prepared to participate actively in the class dynamic in a positive and wholesome manner.

The faith-seeker is expected to travel to St. Joseph's only on transportation provided by Lafayette High School, unless otherwise indicated through proper contact from St. Joseph's or Lafayette.

The faith-seeker is expected to attend and participate in all the class sessions.

In order to be prepared for class the faith-seeker must have already read the assigned readings (preferably with his/ her parents), for the objective of the class session will review and build upon this material from the text(s).

The faith-seeker is expected to respect and treat all individuals, including him/herself, with the heart of Christ.

E. EXPECTATIONS OF THE PARENT (S)

If circumstances arise that prevents a faith-seeker from attending a scheduled class session, St. Joseph's staff must receive proper contact from the parent of the faith-seeker prior to the absence. This is to prevent any confusion and to ensure the best possible safety of all our children at all times while under the planned supervision of St. Joseph's staff.

The parents are expected to help their child prepare for class by reading with them the material that will be covered in class. The "Course Outline" gives detailed information about assigned readings.

Parents are the primary educators/ catechists of their own children. St. Joseph's staff provides the necessary resources to assist the parents, in the spiritual and religious formation and development of their children. As the saying goes it takes a village to raise a child, and from this religious development is not excluded. John Paul II, during an address in 1995 to the universal church, referred to the home as the "domestic church" and also said, "the home is the first school of Christian life and 'a school for human enrichment' ". We must respond to this call, to nurture, support and encourage not only our children, but the entire family as well, on this journey that we share together towards the Heavenly Jerusalem.

F. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FAITH-SEEKERS AND THEIR PARENTS

www.stjosephsrlf.org/youth_ministry.php Webpage with information on all activities and information available for the youth of St. Joseph's RLF

www.usccb.org U.S. Bishops Conference Website

www.usccb.org/movies Official Movie Ratings and News from the U.S. Bishops

www.vatican.va Official Website of the Vatican

www.virtus.org Safe Environment Program / Protecting God's Children