



ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH Religious Education Office

April 2018

Dear Home Study Families:

Welcome to the St. Laurence Home Study CCE Program! You chose the Home Study CCE program for your child this year perhaps for a variety of reasons, but none more important than your desire for him or her to continue in their faith formation. As Daniel Cardinal Di Nardo so aptly reminds us, faith formation is a *lifelong process* 'from cradle to grave,' childhood throughout adulthood. We pray that this coming year will be a special year of shared growth for both you and your child.

This year, the Elementary CCE program has adopted a new curriculum published by *Our Sunday Visitor* (OSV) called ***Alive in Christ***. This series is based upon the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and includes all materials as outlined in the Guidelines of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston for Grades 1 – 5. It also incorporates the Archdiocesan *Tasks of Catechesis* as outlined in the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* promulgated by Cardinal in the summer of 2014.

As the title implies, ***Alive in Christ*** is a Christ-centered curriculum which builds a solid foundation for lifelong discipleship. This series invites children to hear God's invitation to a personal relationship with Him through his Word, helps them to discover and learn the Church's teachings in precise theological language, and teaches them how to live as Catholic disciples. The unique catechetical process utilized in ***Alive in Christ*** intentionally mirrors the Divine Pedagogy (i.e. the way God teaches or leads us to Himself!) thereby forming Catholic identity and leading children, as well as their families, to a life of discipleship.

Each chapter in ***Alive in Christ*** begins by calling the children to listen to God's voice through Sacred Scripture to which they are then invited to respond through reflection and prayer. This is accomplished through three chapter sections, an *Invite*, *Discover* and *Live* focus for each topic introduced. Each year, children will continue to systematically build upon and reinforce what they have previously learned through the seven curriculum units repeated at each grade level in ***Alive in Christ*** on **Revelation, the Trinity, Jesus Christ, The Church, Morality, Sacraments** and the **Kingdom of God**, respectively.

Enclosed in your packet you will find an ***Elementary Home Study CCE Lesson Schedule*** as well as other resources to support you for this year. The Lesson Schedule combines all elementary grade levels (1-5) and covers chapters in an order that is based upon a series of *Essential Questions* (or EQs) posed by the Archdiocese which mirror the deepening of God's self-revelation to man. The EQs are your 'take away' for each lesson or lessons covered for the week. Time is also built into the schedule to check for understanding and to review material, if necessary, as each unit is completed. For that reason, the chapters are not necessarily covered in numerical order, but rather are ordered thematically making it easier to teach at home, especially if you have more than one child in the program. Interspersed throughout the teaching schedule are also included Liturgical Lessons related to the seasons being celebrated by the Church.

One of the many benefits of the ***Alive in Christ*** curriculum over others is the sheer number of online resources provided by the publishing company (OSV) which you may avail yourself of as a registered Home Study family. These resources **include lesson plans for each chapter in the curriculum (by grade level)** to assist you with your teaching. These are located in the 'Student & Family' section of the ***Alive in Christ*** website at www.aliveinchrist.osv.com. Families may also access the interactive games, glossary, People of Faith activities and adult learning articles to further enhance their weekly lessons. This website is also where your children have the option of completing on-line chapter assessments, if that is the method chosen to receive credit for work completed during the year (please refer to the *How to Receive Credit* handout for further details).



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Please be sure to carefully review the *Home Study Program Requirements* page attached to this letter as well as the other handouts included in your packet. If you have any questions about the requirements, the book, its contents, the schedule/dates, expectations, etc., please be sure to let me know. Or, if you are looking for additional resources to incorporate into your lessons, please let us know.

We are here to support you and your families as you journey together in faith this year. May God bless you in that cause and draw you ever closer to Himself!

Blessings,

Joan Hastreiter

Joan Hastreiter
Elementary CCE Coordinator
jhastreiter@stlaurence.org