



Saint Mary's Basilica

Franciscan Friars

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Dear Parents and Caregivers:

Many years ago, probably when your child was a tiny baby, you gathered at the church to celebrate your child's baptism. The ceremony opened with the priest or deacon asking you, "What do you ask of God's church for your child?" The answer was a single word: "Faith" or "Baptism."

Faith is a gift—a gift that comes to your child from God through the church and through the living community of Christians—your family and parish. But like any other gift, faith must be personally accepted if it is to belong to you or your child. When you baptized your child, you and the parish community accepted the gift of faith in their name. You also promised to form them in the faith—to help them to understand and appreciate the gift—so that someday they would be able and willing to accept it for themselves.

Our outreach called *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation Program* is designed to help you fulfill your promise to God, Church, and your child. The aim of our sessions is to help those who participate in it to deepen their personal relationship with God, to develop a sense of belonging in a living Christian community, and to prepare your child for their personal mission in the world as a disciple of Christ.

We recognize that family-life tends to be overscheduled with activities. We do not want our outreach to be another burden for your family, but rather seen as a gift that helps to develop caring, responsible, faith-filled and productive adults. We've redesigned our program to assist overscheduled families and have strengthened our efforts to create a joy-filled experience for our youth and families.

Finally, research into positive youth development confirms the power of faith and religious participation. Youth who spend one or more hours a week in a religious program are less likely to engage in harmful behaviors and more likely to engage in thriving behaviors. Faith and religious participation is a powerful influence on your child and we will support you in sharing that gift of faith, and fulfilling your promise to help your child understand and appreciate that gift.

Peace and All Good,
Bro. Scott Slattum, OFM
Director of Faith Development

Peace and All Good,
Theresa Losada
Coordinator of Children Ministry