

St. Athanasius Religious Education Program
306 Haverhill St., Reading, MA 01867
781-944-0330

March 28, 2008

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As I continue my recovery from back surgery, I am writing to thank you for your support and involvement in this year's religious education program. Parents are the backbone of our program. The time you spend sharing your faith in Jesus with your children is of the utmost importance in helping them to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, their brother and friend. What they learn in class will have a hollow ring without you to translate knowledge of the faith into a lived experience. The catechists can tell the children every week how special Jesus is and how important it is to pray to Jesus at home and at church, but all the classes will have a limited effect on them (studies have proven this) unless they go home and experience Jesus at the center of their family life.

I thank you for all you do to make our Catholic Christian faith come alive at home. I thank our coordinators, our catechists, and all who volunteer to make our religious education program so meaningful here at the church. I hope you appreciate the sacrifices that so many people make for our children. Their dedication is inspiring. They may not be perfect (Who is?) but they are one terrific group of Christians.

Now is the time to register your children for next year's program. Please review the enclosed information and fill out the registration form(s) NOW. The important word is NOW. Every year at this time, we tell our parents how important it is to register on time. Every year many parents respond accordingly to our request. But many others wait and delay and make it difficult for our coordinators to organize the program for the fall. We need to know how many students will be in each grade level so that we can recruit enough teachers (catechists) and order enough printed materials. If you are a procrastinator, **FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORMS NOW**, while you have them in your hand.

I hope that in the coming year, the journey of faith will be a life-giving experience for children and parents alike. And remember: your parish staff is here to help.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support, as we continue to strive to provide an excellent religious education for all our children.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bill