

Dear Network Families,

DISCIPLES OF JESUS

A few weeks ago, we announced that our Network Faith Formation program would be inviting our kids (from Kindergarten to Fourth Grade) to be **FaithSeekers**, inviting them to step away from their families in the pew for about 30 minutes during Mass each week to join with other kids and their Catechists to learn about God and the teachings of Jesus, and the 5th/6th Grade Program, entitled **MassAppeal**, will get our kids started in understanding the Mass and The Bible.

Now we would like to tell you more about our plans to engage our Middle and High Schoolers (Grades 7-12) using the blockbuster dramatization of the life of Jesus, entitled **The Chosen**. Many of our young people are at the stage of their life where they may be doubting that they even believe in God, something that horrifies their parents and families, but is an inevitable part of being immersed in a culture that considers religion more of a problem than a solution. The way to help them understand why Jesus made a difference to the people who encountered him; to help them understand why, 2000 years later, his life matters more than ever; to help them recognize that Jesus can only be rejected if he is understood, but he cannot be ignored, is to introduce them to Jesus in a way that is personally engaging.

There will be 14 ninety-minute Sessions which will involve watching 8 episodes of Season 1 (each episode is about 45 to 60 minutes) of **The Chosen**, participating in small group discussions, and comparing episodes to biblical references and our Catholic Faith, using both the Bible and our Catechism. Everything Jesus teaches in each episode will be connected to our Catholic teachings. This will give our young people the opportunity to debate the story and engage the teachings. Our Next Generation of Disciples will be invited to share how these issues affect their own lives (as well as their friends' lives). Throughout the year, they will also participate in service projects to possibly include serving at and/or preparing for Stations of the Cross, Holy Week, Youth Masses, Social Outreach Projects, etc.

We believe that they will come to the realization that being a true Disciple of Jesus is, by definition, a personal choice, and in making that choice they will experience God as real, and Jesus as our Savior. They can register either by using a form located at your parish church or online at our new Website hvwwff.org.