

Dear Network Families,

MASSAPPEAL

A few weeks ago, we announced that, beginning the weekend of September 30/October 1, our Network Faith Formation program would invite 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 in a way that really hits home for them.

This time we'd like to tell you more about our plans to engage our fifth and sixth graders. Hopefully, beginning the week of October 22nd, the 5th/6th Grade Program, entitled **MassAppeal**, will get our kids started in understanding the Mass and The Bible. The first half of the year will focus on the Mass. During that time, for about one hour a week they will learn everything from the supernatural to the ordinary. They will learn the various parts of the Mass, try on robes, examine vestments, learn how the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus, and much more. They will learn how to serve at the altar, and all the jargon and lingo for the vessels and procedures. Hands-on opportunities will be provided for our young disciples to explore the different aspects of the Mass. They will be able to articulate why and how the Mass is the summit of our Faith and an eternal phenomenon.

Following that, we'll be taking the same approach with the Bible in a program known as *God's Plan in Scripture* (GPS). This will help our kids know who wrote what...what they said...what it means...and who's on first. The program also covers the main people, places, and events of salvation history as recorded in the Bible. The one-hour sessions will include narrative stories, engaging hands-on activities, videos, and skits.

All research shows us that feelings of competence and achievement help fulfill the developmental needs of our children. Our goal is to increase our young people's understanding of our Faith, and why their Religion really matters in our present time. This program strives to give our young disciples the love of their Faith that they crave. You can register your young disciple either by using a form located at your parish church or online at our new Website hvwwff.org.