

"BIG IDEAS" OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(K-8 Content: Life Experience, Scripture, Doctrine, Sacraments, Witnesses, and Prayer and Celebration)

(9-12 Strands: Scripture, Profession of Faith, Christian Moral Development, Prayer and Sacrament, and Family Life)

- **Connecting with the student** (personalization), recognizing their life experience/human condition and search for identity, while we ourselves being authentic/true
- **Present a lived Jesus and Christian/Catholic story...** Scripture, Church teachings, prayer and sacrament, family life...
- **Opening the student up to the spiritual dimension of life...** to the Divine... naming this experience... planting and/or nurturing the seed of our Christian-Catholic Faith... prayer (*God is with us! God is love!*)
- **Aiding in the development of the character of the student** (life skills, making them "human", discovering the purpose/meaning/beauty of life, living out the fruits of the Holy Spirit "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-33)) that leads them to their **vocation**
- **Empower the student with a moral compass...** discernment... Gospel values... Catholic Church teachings... **social justice**... preferential option for the poor... (change in their attitude that points the way to them being involved in their local/world community)
- **Introducing the student to a religious language...** another way of articulating... looking through a Catholic lens, the lens of Jesus Christ
- **Allowing the student to question, doubt, search, inquiry...** to be safe and loved... dealing with their misconceptions/perceptions

Catholic Graduate Expectations (a summary):

1. A discerning believer formed in the Catholic Faith community
2. An effective communicator
3. A reflective, creative and holistic thinker
4. A self-directed, responsible, life long learner
5. A collaborative contributor
6. A caring family member
7. A responsible citizen

