



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

THE MOST REVEREND ERIK T. POHLMEIER

April 19, 2024

To the Faithful of the Diocese of St. Augustine,

I am pleased to present this revised document to guide religious education for the Diocese of St. Augustine. We have benefitted from the expertise and experience of those who guided this review of how we teach our Catholic faith. Since the beginning of our diocese the work of teaching religion has been a central part of our mission. Many people have dedicated themselves to this work and their efforts have borne fruit in countless lives.

With this current document we are striving to bring the timeless truths of our faith to the changing culture of the present day. At the heart of these timeless truths is a person, Jesus Christ. It is in the person of Jesus Christ that we learn the revelation of God. Since the beginning of humanity God has spoken into our hearts. When we turned away God sent his Son and restored the relationship that had been broken. Now the invitation comes through the life of the Church, filled with the Spirit that Jesus entrusted to his disciples.

The teaching of this faith is presented in a systematic way through this curriculum. We have learned from the science of education and our understanding of human development. The approach of religious education found in this curriculum is meant to introduce our children to the reality of God and his invitation into a relationship. As they grow and develop the same concepts can be discovered in deeper and richer ways. As our young people begin to see themselves as part of the larger world, we want them to find their identity as members of the Body of Christ. When they encounter the struggles that come with life, we want them to find strength in the gifts of God.

Our greatest desire is that they are formed in a lifelong faith and carry out their part in the mission given by God, so that they long for the reward of heaven and strive toward the highest good.

With these lofty goals, I entrust this work of religious education to every one of us. Each of us has a role to play in the passing on of faith. I call on those who teach to continue their own growth in knowledge and love. I call on those who accompany to give witness to the transforming power of life with Christ. Together we commit to seeking first the Kingdom of God so that all else can be given as well.

Finally, I seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother. She is the first and greatest teacher for every disciple. May her example and prayers bring us closer to her son and our Savior.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Erik T. Pohlmeier

Bishop of St. Augustine

Catholic Center • 11625 Old St. Augustine Road • Jacksonville, FL 32258-2060

(904) 262-3200 • bishopsoffice@dosaf.com • www.dosaf.com