

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN ST. DOROTHY PARISH

Each year parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are required to complete a report outlining the ways in which religious education and formation are available to the people of the parish. Parents, who have the primary responsibility for the religious education and formation of their children, are assisted by the pastor who organizes the school and religious education programs that the parishioners support.

Parishes also have the responsibility to continue education and formation for all parishioners – adolescents, young adults, and all other adults. Since this only occurs with the full support of parishioners, this report is being offered to help parishioners to understand this important parish ministry.

Vatican II summed up the importance of this ministry by issuing a document stating,
“Education is in a very special way the concern of the Church. Catholic Education has the duty of proclaiming the way of salvation to all, of revealing the life of Christ to those who believe and of assisting them with unremitting care so that they may attain the fullness of that life.”

St. Dorothy Parish Mission Statement reflects the commitment to quality Catholic education for all parishioners, especially school-age children.

The report includes 5 areas of study, which are listed below.

Part I – Participation in Sacramental Preparation Programs - Vital parishes provide sacramental preparation programs for candidates, sponsors, and parents of candidates. St. Dorothy Parish provides the following sacramental preparation programs: Pre-Cana, Pre-Jordan, Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The latter 3 programs include candidates, parents and sponsors.

Part II – Elementary School Age Parishioners – Vital parishes meet specific benchmarks in both the school and religious education programs. In St. Dorothy’s there are 701 parish elementary school age children – 331 attend the parish school and 361 attend PREP and the remaining attend other Catholic schools, public or non-Catholic private schools, and the remaining receive home-schooling. Both the school and PREP programs meet and, in some areas, exceed the standards for a quality school and religious education program.

The costs of educating students in the parish school are covered by the following: tuition, parish subsidy (which is 29%), school fund raisers, and tuition grants. The breakdown of these costs is available at the rectory.

Part III – Adolescent & Youth Ministry – St. Dorothy Parish nourishes the faith development of this age group through a variety of programs and activities, which are

educational, service-oriented, and social. In addition, their personal and spiritual growth is fostered through their participation in the life, mission and work of the parish.

Part IV - Young Adults – This section deals with adults between the ages of 18 – 35. St. Dorothy parish nourishes the faith formation of this group through Marriage Preparation and Pre-Jordan catechesis, availability of liturgical and para-liturgical services and invitation via the parish bulletin to participate in various ministries.