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Dear Friend,
Blessings to you!

The gift of faith is transformative and your commitment to supporting Catholic education is changing lives! As we prepare to enter the Christmas Season, I ask you to consider making a "Gift of Faith".



"The faith must be passed on. It would seem to be our highest calling."

Joe & Sherry
Schroeder

Joe & Sherry (Adam & Eve) Schroeder, Holy Spirit Youth Ministry, Champions of Catholic Education

With your help, faith-filled educators throughout Central Washington are sharing the hope that comes only from Jesus Christ and His Church. A hope that has the power to lift up our youth and fill them with the love, compassion, and courage they need to prepare them to walk with the Lord through life's many challenges.

St. Joseph Parish in Sunnyside is a shining example of faith being shared and lives being changed. The parish has received Parish Religious Education Grants through the Celebration of Faith annually since 2012. St. Joseph Parish shares their beautiful story of life changing ministry in this year's self-produced Celebration of Faith video.

In the words of Mike Prato, Invitation Speaker for the Celebration of Faith, "Those watching the Sunnyside video are changed forever." On the backside of this letter, you will find quotes from some of the young people who gave testimony to the value of their religious education experience. I encourage you to watch the full video which can be found on our website.

The blessings abound, but I have to tell you, our work is not done. The need is great and we can do more. **Today, I ask you to help further the mission of supporting Catholic education by responding to our Annual Appeal with a generous "Gift of Faith".** In supporting one another, we realize the possibilities of what can happen in our own communities and we can better appreciate the blessings we have already received.

Your end-of-year gift during this Season of Hope will lead our kids to walk with Christ.

May your joy be full this Christmas,
Kathleen Wilmes, Executive Director

You are helping to share Faith and Hope in Sunnyside

"The generous support from the [Parish Religious Education Grants] has not only helped to strengthen our youth involvement, but increase it as well. The support has helped us personalize our message to 123 youth members."

Israel Estrada, Youth Minister, St. Joseph Parish



Tim McGree with Jake Jundt,
Champion of Catholic Education

"I believe that giving our children the benefit of a Catholic education is one of the most important things we can do to make this a better world."

Jake Jundt

Give the "Gift of Faith." Donate to the 2017 Annual Appeal Today!



"It is very important to have faith education in every parish because everyone struggles in life. Having a youth group that can bring you back up and remind you of your faith is very important. It has made me stronger. Our faith is always going to be there to help us in life. Without faith, where do we go?"



Jacqueline Herrera

Jacqueline Herrera, Member

Young Adults are "Walking in Faith" at St. Joseph Parish in Sunnyside



Jose Zepeda

"When I was young, before I started religious education, I would always feel lonely because my faith was wasn't really strong. But after my faith started growing, I never feel alone anymore and I feel that is what everybody needs."

Jose Zepeda, Member

"The activity that motivated me the most was being a Religious Education Teacher. It motivated me to go to college and become a Social Service Major. This faith support helps to provide a young adult that is struggling with a place to go when they feel alone and a community that will support them in anything that they need."

Lupita Martinez, Member



Lupita Martinez

Excerpts of the 2017 Celebration of Faith Religious Education Video. Available at www.cwatholicfoundation.org.



"Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone."

Pope Francis

"We are such a caring community. I have helped in the church by being a Minister of the Liturgy and the Eucharist as well as community service events. I do it because I believe it is the right thing to do. It brings me closer to living a life like Jesus Christ. To serve others."

Erik Birrueta, Member



Erik Birrueta



Make a Gift of Faith today to ensure that all kids have an opportunity to Grow in God's Love

Are you 70 1/2 years of age or older? Qualified Charitable Distributions from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) are one of the most tax efficient ways available to make charitable gifts. You can make a nontaxable distribution directly from your IRA to a qualified public charity for up to \$100,000 each year. The gift itself can satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and create tax benefits, even if you do not itemize your deductions. In order to qualify the distribution must meet specific guidelines. To learn more visit our website at www.cwatholicfoundation.org/ira/. Please consult with your tax professionals to determine how you can provide a Gift of Faith while achieving the greatest tax benefit.