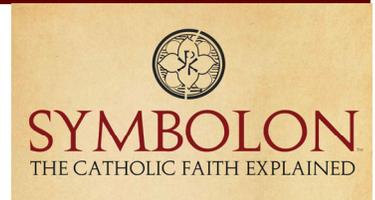


FROM OUR PASTOR



In the early Church, Christians described their Creed, their summary statement of faith, as the **SYMBOLON**, the “seal” or “symbol of the faith.” In the ancient world, the Greek word *symbolon* typically described an object like a piece of parchment, a seal, or a coin that was cut in half and given to two parties. It served as a means of recognition and confirmed a relationship between the two. When the halves of the *symbolon* were



reassembled, the owner’s identity was verified and the relationship confirmed. In like manner, the Creed served as a means of Christian recognition. Someone who confessed the Creed could be identified as a true Christian. Moreover, they were assured that what they professed in the Creed brought them in unity with the faith the Apostles originally proclaimed. **Symbolon** is an Adult Education foundational study on God’s plan of salvation; a journey of faith that will delve into the heart of the teachings of the Catholic faith. Some of the things covered you may already be familiar with, others may be totally new and will prove to be rewarding, inspiring, and most of all life-changing. I encourage all adults to join us for **Part II of Symbolon beginning Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:15pm**. This part will cover: The Sacraments, The Mass, Morality, Authentic Love, Sexuality, and Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person. To sign up, visit <https://setonlakeridge.org/faith-formation/adult-education/faith-sharing-and-formation/>

Next **Sunday, September 20th at 9AM**, we will have our **OPENING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MASS** where we will have a **SPECIAL COMMISSIONING** of all our Catechists including those involved in Adult Education, RCIA and Youth Ministry. Our Catechists will make their Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Fidelity to the Church, in our presence. Many thanks to everyone who has generously answered the Lord’s call to help “make disciples” in our midst! Our **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION K-12TH GRADE** classes **begin that same day, September 20th!** If you still need to register your child, please contact **Mylene Garcia** at 703) 494-3966 ext. 135 or via email at m.garcia@setonlakeridge.org.



Please join me in praying one decade of the rosary (one Our Father and ten Hail Marys) daily from now until Christmas, asking God to grant Wisdom, Peace, Health, and Protection for everyone in our **ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SCHOOL** community. Simply fill out a card in the Narthex or go to rosarycampaign@aquinastars.org to sign-up. All names submitted will be added to the display in the school’s hallway so that our students can track progress toward the goal of 1,000 pledges. **Daily Decade Rosary Campaign Holy Cards** listing the prayers of the rosary and the mysteries upon which we meditate for each decade are also available in the Narthex.

Our Lady of the Rosary and Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us! ~ Fr. Bashista

WEEKLY REFLECTION

No Problem

If every detail in your life is seen as a part of God’s loving plan, then your inner core is filled with peace and harmony even if sorrows and worries are easily recognized on the outside. There are no unsolvable problems for a Christian who has a genuine faith.

Those who know that nothing in all of creation – not in its depth nor in its heights – can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:39) have a rock-solid foundation no matter what adversities they may encounter.

This doesn’t mean that, in the life of a Christian, there is no longer any room for suffering and renunciation. Whoever proclaims Christianity as a way of success and liberation from all pain is hardly credible.

The Christian life involves taking up the cross of Christ and freely relinquishing one’s egoism. But Christians remain standing. It is the risen Lord who conquered all suffering and death who is the invisible power who carries their lives. Christians aren’t people who easily manage all difficulties. But they know that their lives are carried by someone who himself bore all suffering, and who, exactly by delivering himself to it out of love, has conquered it.

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