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September 20, 2009 • Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Pastor's Column

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### Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word

Today we celebrate Catechetical Sunday here at St. Thomas More and in the Universal Church. A special ceremony of blessing and dedication takes place at our 8:30am and 10:30am Sunday Masses in which we recognize the many catechists among us who commit themselves in this coming Parish Year to “hand on the faith” to others, especially the young, in our midst.

We, so often, take a Parish for granted. It is “here” and we avail ourselves of its resources dependent upon our needs. A Parish, though, doesn’t just happen. A Parish, and, especially a Parish with a lively faith, is created and maintained by conscious and very deliberate choices “to be.”

St. Thomas More is an intentional Faith Community. God has called us and we respond to God by gathering together in the name of Jesus. In that intentional gathering, the Lord Jesus is present and, through us, Jesus’ mission and ministry continue.

Every day hundreds and hundreds of people within our community reaffirm their “yes” to God and to God’s Son and our brother, Jesus, by making conscious and deliberate choices to live the Gospel, to gather together in Jesus’ name, and to continue the mission and ministry that Jesus began.

The Catechetical Ministry of a Parish is about sharing our Faith and making sure that we pass it on to others in our midst and to future generations. The core of the Catechism that we pass on is not just words and doctrines that we find on the pages of a book. More importantly, those words and doctrines, if they are to be recognized as authentic, must be enfolded in the actions of our lives that flow from a heart on fire with Jesus.

As pastor, I am grateful to the many Parishioners who have made a conscious choice to order the priorities in their lives in such a way that they can give of their time and talent to be catechists within the St. Thomas More Faith Community. I am grateful for their desire to share Jesus and the Faith Life of this Community with others.

A special “thank you” is extended to Kathleen Bell, our Director of Faith Formation, who oversees the catechetical ministry of this Parish! Her faithfulness and dedication to this ministry is so appreciated.

May the fidelity of our catechists inspire all of us to deepen our commitment to St. Thomas More. Remember, a Parish with a lively Faith doesn’t just happen; we must choose to make it happen. Let us, once again, make that choice!

