

From Jamie Kohler – Faith Formation Leader

After 17 wonderful years of ministering as a faith formation leader at Holy Redeemer, the time has come for me to reduce my hours.

When I applied at Holy Redeemer, I did so with one aim in mind—extending my motherhood. So, as each of the last 17 years have passed, I have put to prayer whether my motherhood is indeed extended through my ministry or whether my motherhood has been replaced with parish ministry. As I reflected this year, I recognized the need to step back from the amount of ministry I do in order to devote more time to my “little domestic Church” so as to effectively live out my role as mother. As Pope Saint John Paul the Great wrote in *Familiaris Consortio*, “Thus the little domestic Church, like the greater Church, needs to be constantly and intensely evangelized: hence its duty regarding permanent education in the faith...the family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates. In a family which is conscious of this mission, all the members evangelize and are evangelized. The parents not only communicate the Gospel to their children, but from their children they can themselves receive the same Gospel as deeply lived by them. And such a family becomes the evangelizer of many other families, and of the neighborhood of which it forms part” (#51-52).

My family and I have received so many blessings during my employment at Holy Redeemer: we have all grown in our faith, developed friendships that will last a lifetime, witnessed the fruit of the Spirit in both small and great ways, and I have been able to expand my motherhood for many years. We are now looking forward to taking some time to focus on our homeschooling, in partnership with Regina Caeli, and having a more flexible schedule so we can spend time as a whole family. Fr. Mike Schmitz says that a person who doesn’t have time for family and friends, doesn’t have time for the Gospel because it is through these relationships that the act of evangelization occurs.

Thank you all for the prayers and blessings you have given my family and I over the years. Holy Redeemer is truly my family and my home. I can’t imagine being anywhere else and God willing, my family will call this home for many years to come. The parish deserves to have someone in this position who can work full-time, as we have come a long way from the 350 families I was hired to serve. I will be staying on staff at ten hours a week. I look forward to continuing to serve our Parish in my new role.

Jamie Kohler