

# Faith Sharing Program FAQs

Catholic Campus Ministry / Newman Center at UB – North Campus

## **I've never taught religion. How do I go about it?**

We use a wonderful curriculum guide called *Living the Good News* published by The Morehouse Group. Our volunteer teachers will be given a Catechist's Guide for their entire 10-12 week teaching session. Each week a new lesson is presented based on that week's scripture. The guide provides a great deal of background and meditation on the scripture. Specific lessons, complete with objectives, lesson plans and suggestions for follow-up activities, are included. The guide also is a wonderful resource of arts and crafts, games, songs, stories, and drama that can be used to enhance any of the concepts you are teaching. A lesson/activity sheet is also provided for each week. The students take this home weekly. We ask the children to share this information with their family. Teachers may opt to create their own lessons and not use the guide. This is fine, too! The important thing is to share your faith, love and inspiration with our young people.

## **Should I sign up for the grade my child is currently in?**

Many parents opt to do this. It gives them a chance to participate in this aspect of their child's religious education. However, you can sign up for any age group. You do not have to have a child enrolled at all to be a faith sharer.

## **Can I sit in on a class before I start teaching?**

Of course! You can observe classes on any Sunday. Make the arrangements with the Team leader for that session. Being a room helper for a session is an excellent way to become familiar with being a lead faith sharer.

## **Is there a program for preschool children?**

Pre-K Children 4 years of age can join with the Kindergarten group. Due to their young age, we ask each child be accompanied to class by one parent.

## **Where will the classes meet?**

We meet in the first floor lobby of the Student Union and use various rooms in the building. Ideally, we want to assign each group to a room and use the same room weekly. However, sometimes University activities do not allow for use of certain rooms. In this case we have to remain flexible and use whatever space is available.

**How do I get reimbursed for materials I may purchase?**

Put your receipts with a voucher (which can be obtained from the office) or a note in the collection basket and a check will be mailed to you from the diocese, usually within a couple of weeks. Please note that the Newman office does not have the capability to reimburse you on the spot.

**What is the extent of my teaching commitment?**

Just 5 to 6 hours. In other words, just ten to twelve 30-minute classes.

**Only 30 minutes? That doesn't seem like enough time to cover the material in the guide.**

The Catechist's Guide has many suggested activities which could take much longer than 30 minutes. Just select a subset or modify the activities to fit the time we have allocated. It is important to start the lesson right away and let the room helpers quietly take attendance and hand out materials.

**What do I do if I have a discipline problem in class?**

Occasionally this can occur... even here at the Newman Center. If a youngster is having trouble settling down and paying attention, ask the child to behave. Remind the group that if they can't cooperate they will be asked to return to their parents. If the lack of cooperation continues, have the youngster return to Mass escorted by another adult.

**What do I do if I can't teach on a Sunday for which I'm scheduled?**

As part of a Faith Sharing Team, you will have all the phone numbers of the Team members. If you know you're going to be out-of-town on a particular week, please try to find a replacement with the Team. If it's a last-minute problem such as being sick, simply call another Team member or the Faith Sharing Coordinator, Nancy Whelan at (983-2785).

**Finally, I'm not sure if my faith is strong enough to consider teaching others.**

Many people have this same concern. Often your preparation for a class helps you strengthen your own faith. It's an ongoing process!