Thursday, February 13, 2014

Dear Father John,

I was pleased with how well the “1st Communion Parent/Child Meeting” went on

Wed. evening. I used a different format for this meeting…compared to how I approached 1st reconciliation…and I feel it was more positively received.

This time I incorporated segments from the DVD “A Child’s 1st Communion” by Fr. Joe Kempf.

We gathered in the gym for the first 15 minutes; parents, child, catechists and I. During this time we opened with a prayer. I had the children come forward to help lead this prayer and they seemed to really enjoy that.

Then I welcomed the families and we watched a 12 minute segment of the DVD which is very child oriented and does a very nice job of explaining the true presence. Father Joe also does an exceptional job of helping parents to feel welcome in the Church, especially those who have been away for a while or rarely attend Mass.

Then the children were dismissed for a lesson in the classroom.

For the parent session, we opened with John 6. Sean Butler did a wonderful job proclaiming the gospel! I emphasized the truth of scripture and spent 5 minutes or so on catechesis.

Then we “unpacked” the contents of the folder- going over a thorough explanation of the materials. (Some of the parents even smiled and laughed during this process which was incredible!)

We did a Q&A session and then closed with a 13 minute segment from the DVD titled “1500th Communion” during which Fr. Kempf in a very loving and patient way explained the importance of continuing on with mass attendance, participation in the sacraments, growing in holiness as a family, etc. It was well done and very touching. We ended with a Hail Mary and they were on their way by 7:20pm.