



*“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up the body of Christ**, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”—Ephesians 4:11-13*

October 12, 2021

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! The last eighteen months in our society have been discouraging, to say the least. It seems we are living on shakier ground than ever I can remember in my lifetime. The winds of culture, politics, and media are becoming increasingly turbulent; churches and denominations are capitulating to the pressures of the culture, and it has become more evident today than ever before that we as the Church need to be grounded in the Gospel, able “To contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). That goes for our little children all the way up to our most senior members. The ancient Church had a model for achieving such a goal, called catechesis, which simply means “to instruct.” Catechesis helped to ensure that the body of Christ was continuously being built up into a mature faith, and that the faith was passed down to the next generation.

That being said, with your help, I would like to create a cradle to grave ministry of catechesis here at Holy Trinity for “*Building up the Body of Christ*.” The ethos would be based on the Classical Trivium, memorization, understanding, and then communicating the faith. The early or elementary years would be geared toward memorizing the core elements of the faith, which parents take vows at baptism to teach their children: The Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles Creed, and the Ten Commandments—all in the context of the Biblical story attached to that particular article of faith. The middle school and early high school years would be geared towards understanding the meaning and theology behind what they have spent the

last several years memorizing. After which would be deeper study into a uniquely Anglican theology and spirituality, learning to communicate and put our faith into practice through studying topics like the 39 Articles, the Book of Common Prayer, the Sunday liturgy, and the liturgical year. Finally, there would be ongoing formation and elective Bible classes for adults.

However, the reality is that at the present time, we do not have the room for such a vision. We only have one area for adults to congregate for class and we are out of space for adding children and youth classrooms. In light of this, I am inviting you into this next chapter of the life of Holy Trinity as we prepare to *Build up the Body of Christ* together. I am asking that you join me in praying about how the Lord may be asking you to help and then commit it to His service. After that, on October 27th, we will all come together for a celebration dinner at The Country Club of Jackson. This will be a night we gather together for fellowship, prayer, and thanksgiving to the One from whom all blessing flow.

There are no accidents in God's economy, and I truly believe the Lord has brought each one of us here for such a time as this, for playing a part in *Building up the Body of Christ* together at Holy Trinity.

In the Love and Kindness of Jesus Christ,


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