



March 2014
Volume 87 Number 3

From the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

March Message from the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...”

These words have been in my head recently as my children have been singing this tune a great deal. And it has stuck because it also lines up with the lessons leading up to Lent.

On February 9, we read: “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”¹

In the brief interlude in which I got to listen to the Confirmation Class’ sermon on this gospel lesson, I heard a beautiful illustration of light shining in darkness, shining so that others might see...

As a mother raising young children, I often enjoy watching my own children discovering their capacity to teach by example as well as to learn. Jane, who has just turned one year old, mirrors everything her older sisters do—from stuffing her mouth too full at the table to imitating sounds and hand gestures and facial expressions, to hugging her baby doll, cooing and rocking it gently.

Nora, Molly, or Annie will exclaim: “Look at what Jane is doing, Mommy!” And most often my response is: “Where do you suppose she learned to do that?” Whether the behavior is positive or negative, her older sisters’ astonishment is shifting to a renewed awareness of their roles as teachers of others—grown-ups and children alike.

(The corollary, of course, is that their renewed awareness renews my own awareness of my accountability as well. Our children mirror our behavior and remind us of our roles as teachers by example. Whether we model good behavior or not, they watch us and do as we do.)

So I’m speaking to myself as well as to my older daughters when I say, “Jane is watching everything you do; you are her teachers, so show her how it should be done...”

This responsibility to model good behavior is true for all of us by virtue of our baptism.

¹ Matthew 5:14-16

We discussed this recently in Children's Chapel in speaking of what it means to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus. As disciples, following in the discipline of our faith, we follow Jesus' teaching and behavior, and exercise that discipline, that practice of our faith out in the world so that others might learn from us...

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." May God guide us to shine so that all we are and say and do reflects the splendor of His Glory.

Faithfully,
Cathy Quinn
Clergy Associate for Family Ministries