

The Rector's Message: Church School for Adults, Teens and Children Resumes September 7

My recent travels to Tanzania and Jerusalem on behalf of the Church have served to underscore the importance of Christian Education at all levels of our lives. Watching the sad specter of the devolution of Christian knowledge within even the leadership of some churches has deepened my sense of the urgency of our need for ongoing formation in the faith. While preparing to honor William Wilberforce at our Mass on July 30, I ran across a remarkable writing of his from 1797 which addresses this concern in an uncanny way, and we are printing it here to challenge each of us:

“He was born in a Christian country; of course he is a Christian. His father was a member of the Church of England; so is he. When such is the religion handed down among us by hereditary succession, it cannot surprise us to observe young men of sense and spirit beginning to doubt altogether of the truth of the system in which they have been brought up, and ready to abandon a station which they are unable to defend. Knowing Christianity chiefly in the difficulties which it contains, and in the impossibilities which are falsely imputed to it, they fall, perhaps, into the company of infidels; where they are shaken by frivolous objections and profane cavils, which, had their religious persuasion been grounded in reason and argument, would have passed by them as the idle wind. Let us beware before it is too late.”¹

On Sunday morning, classes run from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. to accommodate those who attend both Masses. This year, we are offering three classes: Children (with Stephanie Turney and Caroline Chaiban), Youth (with Fr. Trebbe) and Adults (with me). Please work and pray for the mission of our Church School.

Faithfully,
Fr. Bausch+

¹ Wright, J. Robert, editor; *They Still Speak: Readings for the Lesser Feasts* (Church Hymnal Corporation: 993); pp. 141-142.