



# ST. MARIA GORETTI MS/HS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

October 2019 Newsletter

## Hello!

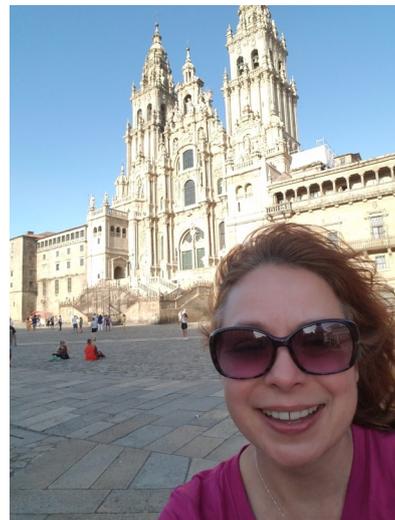
### In this issue:

- Let me introduce to you.....
- Dates to Remember
- Middle School RE & Youth Ministry
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- High School Youth Ministry

Hola! I am Nicole Sment. Born and raised in Rockford, Illinois I have had the fortunate opportunity to live in many regions of the US before settling down in Madison, Wisconsin in 2010. For the second year, I'm a small group leader for the High School Confirmation classes on Sunday evening. I have several hobbies: yoga, kickboxing, spending time with my family, and taking long walks. Really LONG walks! The most recent long walk was a 13 day, 188-mile pilgrimage in Spain. In September 2019, I hiked the second half of the Camino de Santiago, from Leon, Spain to Santiago de Compostella, Spain. The pilgrimage follows the path that St. James the apostle took as he evangelized Spain. In the year 400 AD, Catholics began taking the same walk and still do today.

The question I get asked most is "What made you do that?" The answer is simple. After a couple of difficult years, and I knew I needed some extended one-on-one time with God. So, as I told a close friend, I decided to go on a road trip with Jesus! And I am so glad I did! It was a life-changing event allowing me to grow closer to God, experience the best of humanity, challenge myself to remove all of the walls we can build in day-to-day life, and meet some truly remarkable people! The country of Spain is both beautiful and hospitable, and the food is fantastic -enough to make any foodie rave for days.

(Oh yeah, and I can talk about the Camino experience for forever, so if you have questions, about it or want to know more, just reach out!) -Buen Camino



### October Dates to Remember

- 10/6 Confirmation Sessions and Sponsor Form due
- 10/9 MS RE class 6:30-8pm/ Adult class Catholicism 101 with Fr. Bill
- 10/11 **Middle School Fun Night!** 7-9:30pm at SMG Registration form went home 10/2 and can be found on the parish website brought to you by Westside Catholic Youth Network
- 10/13 SVdP Poverty Simulation has been postponed to the spring
- 10/13 Confirmation Sessions
- 10/16 Youth Group @ 7pm Blessed Sacrament, Guest Speaker Claire Swinarski—"How a Catholic Feminist Looks at Pro-Life Issues "
- 10/19-20 Rite of Welcoming at all Masses & Confirmation Sessions
- 10/23 MS RE class 6:30-8pm/ Adult class Catholicism 101 with Fr. Bill
- 10/26-27 Confirmation Retreat at Camp Gray
- 10/27 NO CONFIRMATION SESSIONS

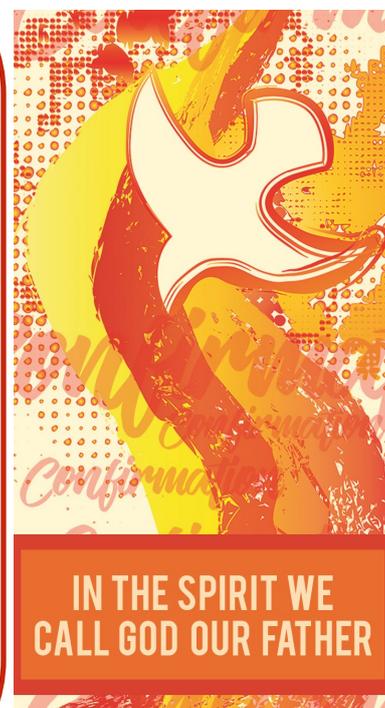
## **MIDDLE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

Our first youth ministry activity is this Friday 7-9:30pm! Fun Night will take place here at SMG and include middle school students from lots of parishes on the westside! Join us for basketball, volleyball, video games, snacks and more! Fun Night Chaperones still needed! Registration went home with all students and can be found on the parish website.

Birthday Bag service project (cake, icing, candles and card)! Over the next couple of months we will be collecting the Birthday Bag items. In December we will have a night of celebration and assemble the birthday bags to be donated to the food pantry.

### **CONFIRMATION PREP**

- \* Sponsor Forms are due! In the next couple of weeks, sponsors will receive information so to make this journey towards Confirmation together.
- \* Rite of Welcoming will occur on Oct. 19-20 at all Masses. Confirmandi will be given a special blessing!
- \* Service Hours Clarification - Requiring one to perform service will not necessarily create a servant attitude, although we hope it does! The requirement of said service hours within the parish, diocese or Catholic Charities is to expose them more fully to the Catholic Church at all levels. Being Catholic involves a lifelong commitment to discipleship and mission. If we do not become the hands and feet of the Catholic Church who will?



*Know that the greatest obstacles to holiness are discouragement and an exaggerated anxiety. These will deprive you of the ability to practice virtue.*

*-St. Faustina*

### **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY**

A pro-life, Catholic, feminist? All these attributes, plus humor and strong faith, define Claire Swinarski, an author and podcaster speaking at Blessed Sacrament Parish on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Hall (church lower level). Check out her podcasts! Once I get the specific plan, I will put it on the parish website, Youth Ministry FB page and communicate with teens via GroupMe.

St. Faustina Movie—Monday 9/28 at the Marcus Point Theaters. More info to come!!