

2019 Camp Sunday Sermon Jennifer Murphy

I hope that you all were able to see the opening slide show of all of our Rec children, Youth, and Families at Camp. The sweetest, happiest faces filled those screens this morning! As I was gently harassing all of the parents for pics of their kids at camp, I found out some good news and some bad news:

- Bad news first was that the children and Youth are not able to have their phones at camp and therefore there was not a picture to be had.
- Good news was that the pics were taken by the camp staff and were available online.
- Bad news for me the pics are password protected (which is really good news for the safety of all) but I did not have the password.
- Good news for me is that Brenda Moneer knew the password (talk about storing random facts in our brains...)
- Bad news....I now had to look through thousands of pics....looking for our children, Youth and families...it was like a needle in a hay stack...
- Good news....when I looked through thousands of pics, I saw no children or Youth or families on phones, computers, gaming systems, iPads, televisions....technology!!

But what I did see in those pictures were children, Youth and families smiling, laughing, talking, singing, dancing, swimming, hiking, running, rock climbing, playing: basketball, gaga ball, 9 square, camping, surfing, sand sculpting, reading, relaxing, crafting, creating, painting nails, painting faces, making friendship bracelets, worshiping, competing, canoeing, eating, celebrating, making memories, making friends, white water rafting, back packing, exploring, learning: about God and themselves, transforming, and loving: Walking in Love as Christ loved us! (from Ephesians 5:2 which is the Camp Theme for 2019).

So...Camp Sunday? What is it and why do we celebrate it?

First, to remind us all of the benefits of camp:

- Spending days being physically active

- Experiencing success and become more confident
- Gaining resiliency....camp helps conquer fears
- Unplugging from technology
- Developing life-long skills
- Growing more independent
- Having free time for unstructured play
- Learning social skills....camp builds team work
- Reconnecting with nature
- Making true friends...camp creates friendships
- Fresh air
- Reducing stress
- Growing closer to God...quite possibly our first real opportunity to develop our friendship and love with God. This transforming nature of God at work in a safe, nurturing environment, where the meaning of unconditional love comes alive.

Second, Camp Sunday is an opportunity to remind us of the gift and the blessing that our Diocese has in having **3** different Camp Programs for Children, Youth and Families.

Camp Capers: (truly traditional summer camp experience...every amazing thought you have ever had about camp as a child...this is the place! Many of you were there for our 50th Anniversary Celebration Retreat)

- located in Waring, Texas (about 45 minutes from Rec)
- offers 8 camp sessions/ 1 week each for children and Youth
- rising 3rd grade through graduating Seniors
- cost is \$505.00 per camper
- scholarships available

Mustang Island: (days at the beach, delicious food, simple Bible based teaching times and worship, arts and crafts, S'mores on the beach, tents and chairs set up for you)

- located in Port Aransas, Texas (about 2.5 hours from Rec)
- offers 12 sessions/ Thursday-Sunday (4 days)
- Family Camps (a great introduction for those kiddos who might be leery of camp....you go together as a family!)
- cost is \$860.00 for a family of 4
- scholarships available

Duncan Park: (this completely off the grid camp comes complete with roaring creek, a log cabin Main Lodge, beautiful trees and easy access to the numerous hiking trails in Roosevelt National Forest)

- located in Colorado (flights leave right out of San Antonio)
- offers 5 sessions/ 6 days each
- rising 8th graders through graduated 12th graders (and additional camps and opportunities for college students and adults)
- offers Junior High Camps, Adventure Camps, Backpacking Camps and Explorer Camps
- cost is \$725 (which includes the cost of airfare from San Antonio)
- scholarships available

Third, Camp Sunday gives us the chance to spread the word about camp: when it is offered, how you can register, find assistance with scholarships and be a part of this blessed adventure.....

- in your bulletin is a handout with all 3 camps listed and the dates each of the camps is offered (in addition to online)
- at the top of the handout you will find the online address for registration (online there is also all sorts of additional camp information...including packing lists and contact information for each of the camps)
- online there is very specific scholarship information that I encourage you to read very carefully! **The Diocese and Reconciliation never want financial need to prevent a camper or family from participating in camp programming.** (But it is a process that must be started well before camp! And I am happy to walk you through it!!)
- If scholarships are needed: 1/3 of camp costs comes from your family, 1/3 of camp costs comes from the Diocese and 1/3 of camp costs comes from Reconciliation
- To give you a rough idea....
 - Camp Capers is \$505.00 per person
 - 1/3 from your family is 168.34
 - 1/3 from the Diocese is 168.34
 - 1/3 from Rec is 168.34
 - But you must fill out the scholarship paperwork!

- Mustang Island for a family of 4 is \$860.00
- 1/3 from your family is 286.67
- 1/3 from the Diocese is 286.67
- 1/3 from Rec is 286.67
- But you must fill out the scholarship paperwork!
- Duncan Park is \$725 per person
- 1/3 from your family is 241.67
- 1/3 from the Diocese is 241.67
- 1/3 from Rec is 241.67
- But you must fill out the scholarship paperwork!
- So how does the Diocese and Reconciliation get their 1/3?
 - Donations to the Diocese can be given either online at the registration website OR you can write a check and mail it to the Diocese with a note in the memo line
 - In addition, today, during our offering time, all loose change and cash that is not marked specifically as part of your tithe, will be donated to the Diocese to be used towards their Camp Scholarship Fund
 - And for Reconciliation our 1/3 will come from our first ever S'mores Fundraiser which will take place directly after this service! We invite everyone to stay after church, bags with all the ingredients will be handed out as you leave, and you can head on over to a fire pit that is already set up for you to toast your marshmallows. Donation boxes will be set up for your donations, but please know that whether you are able to donate or not, we would love for everyone to join us for yummy S'mores (we even have Gluten Free)!!

Finally, Camp Sunday allows our past Campers some time to share their experiences with you all:

- Funny stories
- Favorite memories
- Favorite foods
- Fears and how you conquered them
- Discovered talents and friendships
- Where you saw God at camp?