

“The church as a cornerstone” This concept has come up in several of the recent lessons in Pflaum and has led to some great questions I would like to share as we all grow in faith knowledge, me included.

What is a cornerstone?

When you are building a building you need to have a foundation. We do not construct a building at the top first and then go down! The cornerstone was the stone that could hold the place and weight of the building for all time. It was often marked with the date of construction, or at the least the year, and the name of the building. Long before the days of poured concrete, buildings were made brick by brick. In fact, lots of homes still have larger concrete cinderblocks as their basement walls or as the first layer of foundation. Today foundation materials are different but we still mark buildings on a cornerstone for identity and for strength.

Why is the word cornerstone used for faith? Just as a cornerstone is needed in a structure, in building as a person, we need to start at the beginning. As an infant we build trust and faith in our first community, our immediate family is that first cornerstone. So too, our faith requires us to have a foundation. That is the reason why we send small children to formation classes, to get the basics and to supplement what is happening in the immediate family. As we grow, we build on the foundation that is laid, just like we build a home or office building. You can see, visible to all, that the building has layers of construction set upon the foundation. We too are layered.

Following are pictures of our church and school; each has a cornerstone. In order to develop as humans, we need to nurture the parts of our being, our physical, mental and intellectual, spiritual and emotional selves.

The very foundation of the building says who we are and what we do. We are a Roman Catholic parish and school built to house a place of worship and education for the mission of building up the kingdom of God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls this mission our burning desire. That is the greatest foundation we can give to our children, a foundation of faith, a burning desire.

The Church as a universal whole, combined with our own parish, the home which we call our community, and our parents, siblings and grandparents and extended family are the first cornerstones. These empower children to be people of morality and virtues.

They ground us as humans, lay the foundation and gift us the desire to come to know our faith and the person of Jesus Christ, our salvific God, to seek and find our own purpose to live the mission of the Church through our own gifts and talents often first recognized at church.

a look
Statler

Take
at the
Building for

example







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