



APRIL 2017

# TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

## Sacred Space

*As the world sings triumphant cries to heaven over death that You conquered, help us, Lord, tomorrow as well, when the dresses are put away and the candy is all eaten and on with life we go let us not forget.*

*The celebration of Your Resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the sunrise service and the music, rehearsed for days prior; it is beyond the sign of spring beyond the lily, beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.*

*Resurrection is a daily celebration over fear, man's greatest and most powerful enemy. Fear of tomorrow, fear of our yesterdays, fear of what shall become of our young and our unborn.*

*Resurrection is replacing fear with physical action.*

*This alone, the most touching and profound of Your signs that fear is dead and belief in You brings not just hope, but life.*

*What better living parable could You have brought? All fear death. All. And, You sacrificed Your life, leaving those who had been comfort, and follower; You left them behind, to conquer fear.*

*I shall cling to this now, and the tomorrows given me.*

*Peace and Thanksgiving lifted unto You. Amen.* <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=59>



## Engaging Families in Catechesis: Adding Meaning to Easter

Making Jesus the center of a family's celebration can present a challenge when images of the Easter Bunny are so prevalent.

Parents must take special measures to help kids understand that Jesus is the giver of Easter gifts -- His love, His sacrificial death, the salvation we have through Him, not a big rabbit who hands out candy and colored eggs. Provide these ideas to your families for putting the spiritual significance back into your Easter celebration:



\* Put a spiritual twist on the tradition of decorating Easter eggs. Before dyeing the hard-boiled eggs, use crayons to write an Easter message on each egg. Because the crayon wax keeps the dye from adhering in those spots, your "Jesus is Risen" and "Jesus Died for you" messages will show through clearly.

\*As a family, choose a few craft projects that emphasize the meaning of Easter. Do an Internet search or check out books from the library for ideas. Use your completed projects to decorate your home for your family celebration. \*Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by doing the kinds of things Jesus came to earth to do. Extend God's love to others by visiting the elderly and sick, gathering up clothing to take to a homeless shelter, or making and delivering food baskets to families in need.

\*Do some research on how the Resurrection is celebrated in other cultures. Turn the Easter celebration into a learning experience by enjoying traditional Easter foods and activities from another country.

\* Many churches make Easter crosses by attaching real flowers in some fashion to a wooden cross to symbolize the new life brought to us through Jesus' death. Make your own family Easter cross by cutting out a large cross from brown construction paper. Let the children use construction paper, markers, crayons and paint to create flowers to decorate it.

<http://www.catholicmom.com/easterart3.htm>

## From the Education Resource Center (ERC)

Below you will find some resources to help you prepare for Holy Week. These resources are just a sampling of media that is available. Contact the ERC ([dbqcm1@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqcm1@dbqarch.org) or 563-556-2580 X214) for more options and further assistance.



### Easter Story Large Prayer Cubes (KA #04730)

This 2¼-inch diameter wooden cube has a symbol and Scripture citation for six events from Holy Week. Included is a guide with directions for various games to help students learn the sequence of events of Holy Week, connect the symbols with their story, and search the facts of the Holy Week events as found in the Scriptures.

### Speed Sketch Bible Stories (DV #31490)

Each of six stories is taken straight from the Bible and is rapidly sketched while recounting the story two ways: once in a narrated paraphrase and another time taken directly from the NIV translation of the Bible. Included are the following stories: Nicodemus, Triumphal Entry, The Last Supper, Gethsemane, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. (Each sketch about 5 min., includes Spanish language track)



### Jesus Speaks To Me About Easter (BK #201321)

Jesus "speaks" in a personal way to the children, not only about his glorious resurrection, but also about the exciting adventure of the disciples after the resurrection. St. Peter's



amazing dream, St. Paul's conversion, and Philip's ride in a chariot will help children understand the true meaning of Easter and the new life that Christ has won for them.

## Saint of the Month

St. Julie (Julia) Billiard was born in 1751 and died in 1816. As a child, playing "school" was Julie's favorite game. When she was sixteen, to help support her family, she began to teach "for real". She sat on a haystack during the noon recess and told the biblical parables to the workers. Julie carried on this mission of teaching throughout her life, and the Congregation she founded continues her work.



Recognizing something "special" in Julie, the priest secretly allowed her to make her First Communion at the age of nine, when the normal age at that time, was thirteen. She learned to make short mental prayers and to develop a great love for Jesus in the Eucharist. A murder attempt on her father shocked her nervous system badly. A period of extremely poor health for Julie began, and was to last for thirty years. For twenty-two of these years she was completely paralyzed. When the French Revolution broke out, Julie offered her home as a hiding place for loyal priests. Because of this, Julie became a hunted prey. Five times in three years she was forced to flee in secret to avoid compromising her friends who were hiding her. At this time she was privileged to receive a vision. She saw her crucified Lord surrounded by a large group of religious women dressed in a habit she had never seen before. An inner voice told her that these would be her daughters and that she would begin an institute for the Christian education of young girls. She founded the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. In 1815, Mother taxed her ever poor health by nursing the wounded and feeding the starving left from the battle of Waterloo. For the last three months of her life, she again suffered much. She died peacefully on April 8, 1816 at 64 years of age. Julie was beatified on May 13, 1906, and was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1969. Her feast day is April 8th.

[http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=297](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=297)

## Teaching the Easter Story

Here is a wonderful idea for teaching the Easter story to kids! Even the smallest preschoolers love these. Each egg has a symbol of the Easter story inside. You open the eggs one at a time, and discuss the role of that object in the Easter story. You can easily make your own Resurrection eggs. Put any of the following items in plastic eggs:

- Sponge with Vinegar (From a piece of a kitchen sponge.)
- Spices and Fabric (For preparing the body for burial, anything from your spice rack.)
- A Die (for the soldiers casting lots for Jesus' garments)
- A Feather (for the rooster crowing)
- A Thick String (for the scourging)
- Small Piece of Wash Cloth (for washing of feet)
- Small Cup (for when Jesus says "let this cup pass from me")
- A Black Cloth (for when the sky went black)
- Small Piece of Rose Bush Stem (in place of crown of thorns)
- An Empty Egg (for the empty tomb)
- Cloth (for finding empty burial cloths in the tomb)
- Cotton Ball with Perfume (for the perfume Mary put on Jesus' feet)
- Purple Cloth (for the robes they wrapped Jesus in), and a Sign that says "King of the Jews"
- Cross (made from popsicle sticks)
- Jesus' garments (made from felt and embroidery floss)

<http://www.catholicicing.com/catholic-resurrection-eggs/>



## Teaching about the Pascal Candle

Here is a quick lesson plan for all ages. The candle that is in the front of Church during the Easter season is not just big; it is special. Use the ideas from this illustrated guide to the Pascal candle. You can even make copies.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/131659989081340182/>



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