



MARCH 2016

TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

Sacred Space



**Our steps are slow,
Our breathing ragged,
Our burdens heavy.
This walk to the cross,
It is not easy,
Yet Christ walked it for us.
For the joy
that was set before him,
He despised the shame,
He bore our blame,
And shared our pain,
Now let us build on the rock,
That is Christ.
Let us walk the way of the cross
together,
Moving forward without fear,
Into God's eternal purposes.
For Christ himself is with us,
every step of the way.
Let us trust in God alone,
And find the joy that Christ did,
Obedience to our loving God.**

(c) Christine Sine <http://godspace.wordpress.com>

Take up your Cross: A Classroom Activity

In preparation for this activity, choose one student to be the reader. The student will read Mark 10:35-45. Have all the students make small crosses.



(Gather the twigs before class.....some long and some short that can be crossed and tied with yarn to make the symbol of the cross.) Invite each student to hold a cross throughout the activity/prayer. Go to: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/38773246766008366/> for the complete prayer.

For Your Formation: The Seven Last Words of Christ

The Sayings of Jesus on the cross (also called the Seven Last Words from the Cross) are seven expressions biblically attributed to Jesus during his crucifixion. Traditionally, the brief sayings have been called "words". They are gathered from the four Canonical Gospels. Three of the sayings appear only in the Gospel of Luke and three only in the Gospel of John. The other saying appears both in the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Matthew. In Mark and Matthew, Jesus cries out to God. In Luke, he forgives his killers, reassures the penitent thief, and commends his spirit to the Father. In John, he speaks to his mother, says he thirsts, and declares the end of his earthly life.

The seven sayings form part of a Christian meditation that is often used during Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday. The traditional order of the sayings are:

- 1 Luke 23:34: Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.
- 2 Luke 23:43: Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.
- 3 John 19:26-27: Woman, behold your son. Son Behold your mother.
- 4 Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34 My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?
- 5 John 19:28: I thirst.
- 6 John 19:30: It is finished. (From the Greek "Tetelestai" which is also translated "It is accomplished.")
- 7 Luke 23:46: Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.



Traditionally, these seven sayings are called words of 1. Forgiveness 2. Salvation 3. Relationship 4. Abandonment 5. Distress 6. Triumph 7. Reunion

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/the-seven-last-words-of-christ-reflections-for-holy-week/>

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Saint of the Month

Saint Katharine Drexel, Religious (Feast Day-March 3) Born in 1858, into a prominent Philadelphia family, Katharine became imbued with love for God and neighbor. She took an avid interest in the material and spiritual well being of black and Native Americans. She began by donating money but soon concluded that more was needed - the lacking ingredient was people. Katharine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Black and Native American peoples, whose members would work for the betterment of those they were called to serve. From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, she dedicated her life and a fortune of 20 million dollars to this work. In 1894, Mother Drexel took part in opening the first mission school for Indians, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Other schools quickly followed - for Native Americans west of the Mississippi River, and for the blacks in the southern part of the United States. In 1915 she also founded Xavier University in New Orleans. At her death there were more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the country. Because of her lifelong dedication to her faith and her selfless service to the oppressed, Pope John Paul II canonized her on October 1, 2000 to become only the second recognized American-born saint. http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=193



Activities and Ideas for Easter

<http://www.thereligionteacher.com/easter-activities/>

This web site provides many ideas from Loyola Press such as The Empty Tomb Game, the Jelly Bean Prayer from CatholicMom.com, Easter Triduum Activities from the Catholic Toolbox, and 6 Creative Ways to Teach the Easter story. Look forward more ideas about the Easter season in April.

Palm Sunday Craft for Younger Kids



How easy...just have kids trace their hands on green paper and layer the cut out hands on a popsicle stick. Read the story of Palm Sunday and do a re-enactment in your classroom or send this idea home to parents.

<http://mommynippets.com/hosanna-branch-wavers/>

A Treasure Trove of Ideas for the Classroom, the Home And Catechist Enrichment: Holy Week

Check out the following website for many ideas prayers, crafts and printable activities concerning Lent: <http://www.catholicicing.com/lenten-activities-for-children/>

There are printable Stations of the Cross and a Stations of the Cross grotto craft. There are ideas using palms from Palm Sunday. There are several Holy Week ideas including making unleavened bread and a craft dealing with the veil of Veronica. Catechists and teachers may choose one of two for the classroom. Be sure to send some ideas home in a newsletter. After all, school and faith formation are partners with the domestic Church!



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