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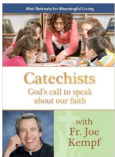
TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

Sacred Space



*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.*

From the Resource Center



Mini-Retreats For Meaningful Living: Catechists - God's Call To Speak About Our Faith

DV #31259.1 43 min.

Three talks and one guided meditation by Rev. Joe Kempf can be used all in one session, spread over four weekly meetings, or shared with catechists to view at home. Sessions are as follows: Who, me? You called ME to speak about faith? (11 min.); Four principles for all who are called to speak about faith (12 min.); Three thoughts for the catechist – and for all who are called to speak about faith (12 min.); Guided reflection: The practice of the present moment (8 min.).



Brother Francis Presents: The Saints - Our Heavenly Friends

DV #31263.1 26 min.

Join Brother Francis as he introduces children to their heavenly friends, the saints.

Learn about the wonderful comfort, encouragement, and help given through those that serve God in His heavenly Kingdom. This episode includes the story of Saint John Bosco, the musical reminder to do our best for God and others: I Will Do My Best for Jesus, and introductions to other wonderful saints like Dominic Savio, Thérèse of Lisieux, and John the Baptist. (English and Spanish language tracks and subtitles)

CLASSROOM MANAGEMET TIP FOR A NEW TEACHER/CATECHIST: USE HAND SIGNALS AND OTHER NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION:

Holding one hand in the air, and making eye contact with students is a great way to quiet the class and get their attention on you. It takes awhile for students to get used to this as a routine, but it works wonderfully. Have them raise their hand along with you until all are up. Then lower yours and talk.

Flicking the lights off and on once to get the attention is an oldie but a goodie. It could also be something you do routinely to let them know they have three minutes to finish an assignment or clean up a project, etc.

With younger students, try clapping your hands three times and teaching the children to clap back twice. This is a fun and active way to get their attention and all eyes on you. *From <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/classroommanagement-tips-novice-teachers>*

Exploring the Christian Roots of Halloween: For Your Formation

Throughout the centuries man has struggled to keep his focus on the one true Faith and its practices. So many times, though, the pagan superstitions creep back into practice. Although now with a holier purpose, when preparing for the huge feast of All Saints some pagan "cult of the dead" practices seeped into the mainstream. In our modern times it is getting harder to be "in" the world but not "of" the world. How are we to explain to our children about the top moneymaking over-commercialized "holiday" of the year after Christmas? We have an onslaught of Halloween witches, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, vampires, etc. everywhere we turn. How do we bring a message to our children to say that being a Christian does not mean that we cannot have fun? How do we convey that we must not constantly be negative and condemn everything?

To answer this, we must put on the mind of the Church. All through the centuries the Church has taken secular feasts and tried to "sanctify" or "Christianize" them. The feast day of All Saints itself came from the dedication of the Pantheon, a pagan temple, into a Christian church. This is undoubtedly another way of sanctifying the secular and pagan. Missionaries have to get to know the culture and religion of the country before they convert the native people of that country. The Missionaries have to be able to find some elements in their culture that can help these people identify and understand.

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=1230&repos=1&subrepos=0&searchid=1429851>

Christianity at their level. St. Paul tried it with the Greeks. Seeing their altar to the Unknown God, he saw that through their own pagan altar, he was going to bring them to Christianity.

Instead of just suppressing the whole celebration of Halloween and leaving a gaping hole, the Church gives a replacement focus. The Church has the mindset of "How can this be turned into good, with the focus on the one true God and His Church?" Since All Saints and All Souls feasts are together, we can shift the focus of Halloween to a focus on the Communion of Saints in action. We combine honoring the saints in heaven, remembering our loved ones and then directing the destiny of our own souls by prayer and actions. Through this we see the Mystical body all in action.

To return to the "sanctified" traditions of Halloween, one can use the opportunity to honor the saints, pray for the Poor Souls and prepare oneself spiritually for two great feast days of the Catholic Church, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.



Engaging Families in Catechesis

Parents often find Halloween a difficult time of year. Can a holiday that started in pagan times be celebrated in a Catholic tradition? Please list this website in parent/guardian newsletters or even your parish bulletin:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/default.aspx?id=23> Here you can learn Catholic Christian history of Halloween (All Hallows Eve), learn the legend of the jack o'lantern and discover what Catholics believe about witches, ghosts and magic.

Classroom Prayer Idea



Should you decide to carve a pumpkin with your class, make it a prayerful experience:

"Pumpkin Prayer"

{cut off top of pumpkin} - Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.

{remove innards} - Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me to forgive others.

{cut open eyes} - Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me.

{cut out nose} - I'm sorry for the times I've turned my nose at the good food you provide.

{cut out mouth} - Let everything I say please You.

{light the candle} - Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do. Amen

By: Liz Curtis Higgs