



SEPTEMBER 2015

# TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

## Introduction to the Education Resource Center of the Archdiocese of Dubuque

The Education Resource Center (ERC) gives you free access to thousands of hands-on and on-line media resources to supplement, enrich, review, and enliven your lessons as well as your personal faith formation. For a quick (<2 min.) video tour and introduction, watch the ERC Photo Tour video at the bottom of the ERC homepage: <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/education-resource-center/>

For more information contact the ERC at [dbqcmcd1@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqcmcd1@dbqarch.org) or 800-876-3546.

## SACRED SPACE



### Back to School Prayer

*We thank you for the fragrance of a new box of crayons, Lord,  
The rainbow in each perfect row;  
Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper,  
Awaiting fresh possibilities.  
May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.  
Thank you for this ruler; for every eraser that tops every pencil.  
May they help us remember to measure our blessings,  
But never your boundless love for us;  
To allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.  
As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school,  
Help us remember to put on Christ each day, too,  
And to "clothe the naked" as He asked us.  
But mostly, God, help us remember  
that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher—  
That we never outgrow all his lessons on how you want us to live and to love.*

By HomeFaith editor Mary Lynn Hendrickson

## SAINTS OF THE MONTH

### September 23: St. Thecla

Thecla was a beautiful young pagan noblewoman who lived in the first century. She was from the city of Iconium, in Turkey. She read many philosophy books, yet nothing satisfied her desire to know about her Creator. When St. Paul the Apostle came to preach the Gospel of Jesus in Iconium, Thecla's prayer to know the one, true God was answered. From St. Paul, she also learned that a young woman can become the bride of Christ if she gives up marriage. By this time, Thecla desired nothing else than to give herself entirely to God. Thecla's pagan parents tried their best to make her give up her Christian faith, but she would not. Her fiancé, Thamyris, begged her not to break their engagement. However, Thecla had made up her mind. She wanted to be Christ's bride, not his. At last, in great anger, Thamyris accused her to the judge. When she still refused to give up her love for Jesus, she was ordered to be burned to death. The beautiful young woman prepared bravely to die. However, it is said that no sooner had the fire been lit than a storm from heaven put it out. Later, she was condemned to be eaten by lions. Once again, however, God saved Thecla's life. Instead of clawing her, the fierce beasts walked gently up to her, lay down at her side, and licked her feet, like pet kittens. At last, in fear, the judge set Thecla free. She went to live in a cave where she spent the rest of her long life. She prayed and taught the people who came to visit her about the Lord Jesus. **Reflection:** For Thecla, it took great courage to follow her vocation and the call of Jesus. How am I challenged in living out my own call?

### September 27: St. Vincent De Paul

Vincent, the son of poor French peasants, was born in 1581. When he grew up and became famous, he loved to tell people how he had taken care of his father's pigs. Because he was intelligent, his father sent him to school. After finishing his studies, Vincent became a priest. At first, he was given an important position as the teacher of rich children, and he lived rather comfortably. Then one day, he was called to the side of a dying peasant. In front of many people, this man declared that all his past confessions had been bad ones. Suddenly Fr. Vincent realized how badly the poor people of France needed spiritual help. When he began to preach to them, crowds went to confession. He finally decided to start a congregation of priests to work especially among the poor. The charities of St. Vincent de Paul were so many that it seems impossible for one person to have begun so much. He took care of criminals who worked on sailing ships. He started Congregation of the Sisters of Charity with St. Louise de Marillac. He opened hospitals and homes for orphans and old people. He collected large sums of money for poor areas, sent missionaries to many countries, and brought back prisoners from the Mohammedans. Even though he was such a charitable man, however, he humbly admitted that he was not so by nature. "I would have been hard, rough and ill-tempered," he said "were it not for God's grace." Vincent de Paul died in Paris on September 27, 1660. He was proclaimed a saint in 1737 by Pope Clement XII. **Reflection:** "It is not sufficient for me to love God if I do not love my neighbor. I belong to God and to the poor." — St. Vincent de Paul **Activity:** Collect clothes no longer worn and donate them to a local St. Vincent de Paul Society. <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/dailysaint>



## Discipline in the Classroom

I will be providing discipline aides this year from

[www.disciplinehelp.com](http://www.disciplinehelp.com)

You may choose to log into this web site and sign up yourself. The purpose of this website is to provide you with an online resource for handling student behaviors at school and at home. It presents a complete step-by-step approach to changing inappropriate behavior to appropriate behavior. The primary causes for misbehavior are: attention, power, revenge or self-confidence.

**Attention:** Most students gain attention through normal channels. However, for some students, misbehavior is the only source of attention. Most commonly, these are the students who speak out without permission, arrive late for class, or make strange noises that divert class and teacher attention.

**Power:** The need for power is expressed by open dissent and refusal to follow rules. Remember, some students often feel defeated if they do as they are told. Most commonly, we know these students as those who defy authority, break rules, or bully others.

**Revenge:** Some students find their places by being hated. Failure has made them give up trying for attention and power. Unfortunately, they find personal satisfaction in being mean, vicious, and violent.

**Self-Confidence:** Students who lack self-confidence honestly expect failure. They do not feel they have the ability to function in the classroom—but may feel completely adequate outside school. They frustrate teachers and parents because they are often capable of handing their studies successfully.

We will explore inappropriate behaviors in the classroom and hope to cope or correct these behaviors in further issues of TTAJD.

### Engaging Families in Catechesis and for Personal Formation!!!

Remember that *Parents are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children. They have a unique responsibility for the education of their children; they are their first educators or catechists.* (National Directory of Catechesis 234)

In one of your first communications to parents, remind them that you teach their children religion but the parents are crucial in good catechesis. Stress the importance of attending Sunday Mass as a family. Advocate prayer time as a family and suggest parents engage in some sort of adult formation in the parish as well as some kind of service or stewardship. And of course, encourage the parents to talk with their kids about their religion classes and what they are learning. They school or the Faith Formation classroom and the home are intrinsically linked in good faith formation. The Archdiocese is sponsoring a special day on the family in this year of the World Synod on the Family. Plan to attend the conference as a faculty or team of catechists. Encourage parents of your students to attend. The conference is on Saturday, November 7, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Five Sullivan Brothers Center, Waterloo. Click here for more information: <https://www.dbqarch.org/familymatters/>

### Setting Rules in Your Classroom: A Fall Craft that Teaches Paper Plate Apple

Craft by Leanne Guenther [www.dltk-kids.com](http://www.dltk-kids.com)

This apple craft uses a paper plate to make a project suitable for many themes. But in a school or religion classroom, have the students make several apples and put a classroom rule on each apple, such as kindness to others, raising your hand, or being quiet during prayer. Post the rules in your classroom. Check with the apples now and then to see how the class is doing.

Materials: Paper plate, red & green paint, paintbrush, black paint or marker, scissors, glue.  
Optional: Substitute real apple seeds for painted ones.



Cut leaf shapes off of opposite sides of the plate.  
Paint the leaf shapes green and set aside to dry.  
Paint the edges (top & bottom) of the plate red.  
Paint or draw seed shapes onto the center of the plate, or glue real seeds into the center of the plate.

