

To Teach As Jesus Did

April 2018

SACRED SPACE:

Easter Prayer

Lord God,
You loved the world so much
that you gave your one and only Son,
that we might be called your children, too.
Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace
of Easter Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness
for your sacrifice.
Let us have eyes that look upon
your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
Help us to walk in that mighty grace
and tell your good news to the world.
All for your glory do we pray, Lord.
Amen.



Rachel Marie Stone,

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/prayers/easter-prayers-celebrate-resurrection-day-victory.html>

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Teaching As Jesus Did

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." *Luke 24:35-36, 41-48*

To become witnesses of Christ's resurrection is to embrace his peace in our own lives and work, joyfully bringing that peace into the lives of others, both for them and for ourselves. How are you witnessing to Christ's resurrection?

HIGHLIGHTING YOUTH MINISTRY CURRICULUM:

Who is Jesus Christ? – Objectives #4, 5 and 6

For those catechists following the Youth Ministry Curriculum offered by the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Theme #2, "Who is Jesus Christ?" began in January, 2018. In learning about who Jesus is – "the ultimate revelation of a personal, loving God who invites us to live a life of peace and joy in relationship with God and the Church" - the participants will also learn who He calls them to be. Objectives #4, 5, and 6 invite you to explore the Incarnation, develop a deeper regard for Mary, and become aware that our response to the Love of Jesus is faithfulness and discipleship.

For more information, see: <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/adolescent-faith-formation/new-high-school-religious-education-curriculum/>

FOR YOUR FORMATION:

Networking

An important strategy for personal growth and success is to network with others. As catechists, we benefit from connecting with other catechists to find links and resources and inspiration. Connect with local catechists through FFLSharing@dbqarch.org. Consider connecting to the Catholic Faith Formation [Facebook page](#) or subscribe to their [newsletter](#). Always be on the lookout for tips and advice to help you catechize and evangelize throughout the year.

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

St. Gianna Beretta Molla – April 28

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla was an Italian medical doctor who lived a life of heroic virtue. She is a saint for our modern times with much to teach us through her life witness as a faithful Catholic, successful working woman, devoted wife, and loving mother of four. St. Gianna made heroic choices, but that was something her family members and friends testified she prepared for every day of her life. Her heroic virtue, genuine holiness of life, selflessness, and quiet joy remind us that God entrusts us with a personal vocation. Every day presents us with choices that have the power to prepare us to take heroic action if we surrender ourselves and what we desire to God and His will for us. St. Gianna is the patron saint of mothers, physicians, and unborn children.

To learn more about St. Gianna Beretta Molla, see:

<http://saintgianna.org/main.htm>.



FamilyMatters

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<https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/family-life/newsletter/>



TEACHABLE MOMENTS:

We Are Easter People

Easter is the Feast of Feasts. It is central to the Christian faith. We are an Easter people. How do we identify one another as Easter people and claim *Alleluia!* as our song? Consider these ways to help youth understand Easter.

- Make sure they know the story of Easter – "the moment when the Kingdom of God enters into our time" (CCC 1168-1169). Use various resources to bring the story alive for your students.
- Help youth to know how Easter shapes the Church and Catholic life. Share Easter customs in the Church. Explain that the Easter season lasts 50 days. Bring attention to the symbols, the rituals, the music, and the Gospels of the season. Explain how every Sunday is a "little Easter" as we experience the Risen Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Connect Easter to home life. Reflect on how family Easter traditions reflect their faith traditions.
- Help youth to know where they fit into the Easter story. Use stories from real life to explain that each of us encounters times when people, things, or circumstances we care about may die or are lost. Christian hope, born of Jesus' Paschal Mystery, means that if we focus on Jesus and offer our suffering to God, we will change, grow, and rise up to new ways of living as God intends.

How do you help students understand that they are Easter people? How will you help them claim *Alleluia!* as their song?

<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2016/03/four-ways-to-help-children-understand-easter/>

LOOKING AHEAD:

Upcoming Opportunities for Teaching the Faith

- April 1 – Easter Sunday
- April 9 – Annunciation of the Lord
- First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation, and Confirmation
- Start planning your "summer" programming for youth, young adults, adults, and families

ENGAGING TEENS:

The Personal Component of Youth Ministry

This month, we conclude our focus on the *Personal* component of Catholic youth ministry:



Effective Catholic youth ministry recognizes that it takes time to build relationships and earn trust, so it seeks to maintain continuity by retaining effective youth ministers and volunteers.

How are you building up and maintaining effective relationships with youth in your ministry?

<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/Article/TabId/535/ArtMID/13567/ArticleID/14409/Plugging-teens-into-the-faith-A-how-to-guide.aspx>

SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES:

April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism spectrum disorder, also known as ASD, is a developmental disability defined by a certain set of behaviors. Because autism ranges in severity among the affected, it is best defined as a “spectrum disorder”.

Autism awareness is recognized by a puzzle piece representing the mystery and complexity of the disorder. The spectrum is characterized by the brightly colored *puzzle piece ribbon* to signify the diversity of the disorder.

For information about the Autism Society of Iowa, check out this site: <http://autismia.com/about-autism/>

The prevalence of autism is an increasing reality in the parishes and schools of the Catholic Church in the United States. The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) states, “Children who have ASD display mild to severe impairments in social interaction and communication along with restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behaviors, interests, and activities.” (www.ncpd.org)

It is important for parents, catechists, teachers and parish members, to realize that not every person responds to every technique. Many materials are now available for a variety of uses for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The NCPD offers numerous resources for parish and catechetical observation of Autism Awareness Month. To view these resources, click here:

<http://www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/autism>



DISCIPLINE IN THE CLASSROOM:

Joe Paprocki's Ten Tips for Maintaining Discipline

As a catechist, you will inevitably encounter discipline problems at some point, especially in working with children and adolescents. Discipline is a necessary part of faith formation. Each Lent, we practice the disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving alms. The idea is that, in order to be a *disciple* of Jesus, one needs *discipline*. When you maintain discipline in your learning environment, you are acting in the image of God – in whose name you teach. In his “Ten Tips for Maintaining Discipline,” Joe Paprocki suggests helpful ideas for providing a positive learning environment while avoiding the distractions a lack of discipline can bring to the classroom.

Tip #3: Don't Panic

When discipline problems arise, strive to remain calm and in control. Communicating a sense of authority while remaining calm is not only effective but also necessary in developing a long-term strategy for combating discipline problems. Losing your cool may work for the moment, but it undermines your credibility in the long run.

(Watch for more tips in upcoming issues!)

From *The Catechist's Toolbox* by Joe Paprocki © 2007, p. 73.

ENGAGING PARENTS AND FAMILIES:

Springtime Activities for Catholic Families

Easter is not a one-day celebration. The Easter season lasts fifty days! Here are a few ideas to help families come together to enjoy this holy season:

Celebrate Easter's 50 Days With Your Family:

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/2710503/posts>

A Family Easter Celebration to Last 50 Days:

<http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/blog/a-family-easter-celebration-it-lasts-50-days-janet-schaeffler-op>

Activities for the 50 Days of the Easter Season:

<https://www.osv.com/MyFaith/ChurchSeasonsandFeasts/Easter/Article/TabId/831/ArtMID/13775/ArticleID/101/Easter-Activities.aspx>

Remembering First Holy Communion: Bring out the photos of family members' First Communion, tell stories and reflect on what this special day means: <https://forums.catholic.com/t/what-do-you-remember-about-your-first-holy-communion/421840>

Fun Family Ways to Celebrate Spring:

<https://www.reallifeathome.com/celebrate-the-first-day-of-spring-with-these-fun-activities/>

Springtime Family Activities to Celebrate God's Creation:

<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/we-believe/catholic-family-resources-springtime-activities>

EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER SPOTLIGHT:

The website at *Sophia Institute for Teachers* offers lesson plans and resources that are free to access and delivered to your inbox upon request. The resources are developed by teachers for teachers; so they are relevant, age-appropriate, easy to incorporate into your lessons, and complete with all the resources you need. They include *Weekly Lesson Plans on the Sunday Gospel* (distributed monthly with readings, discussion questions, and activities for each Sunday of the year), *Teaching the Faith with Current Events* (lessons to help students apply Catholic principles by discussing topics in today's news), *Heavenly Hall of Fame* (stories and activities about a saint for each month), and *Sacred Art Library* (dozens of sacred art images that can be shown full-screen and searchable by entering a keyword). Explore these and more resources at <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/>



Weekly Lesson Plans on the Sunday Gospel



Teaching the Faith with Current Events



Heavenly Hall of Fame



Sacred Art Library