

To Teach As Jesus Did

May 2018

SACRED SPACE:

A Prayer to St. Joseph the Worker (May 1)

We give thanks to God for the work of our lives,
For the work of our hands, minds and hearts,
For our work which sheds light in the darkness,
and creates order from chaos,
For our work which builds peace out of hostility,
For our work which helps, inspires, and empowers others,
For our work which builds up the Kingdom of God,
Let us pray:
Joseph, it was to you that the Father entrusted his Son and the Virgin Mary.
Continue to be the sign of the Father's love for us.
Form us in the ways of work as you formed Christ,
so that we may labor for the building of the City of God.
Teach us a profound respect for the mystery of creation,
and a reverence for the Father's presence in the material world around us.
Help us to bear witness to the sanctity of work in our daily living.
May God grant us this grace through your intercession in union with Jesus and Mary.
Amen.



Adapted from *Litany of Work: Saint Joseph the Worker*, University of Dayton
<https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/l/litany-of-work-saint-joseph-the-worker.php>

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: **Teaching As Jesus Did**



*Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38*

In the Gospel of Luke, Mary says *yes* to the angel Gabriel, who asks her to bear God's son. God also meets us through nature, prayer, and other people. God invites us to trust him and to create with him. But the decision is always ours. We are free to say *yes* or *no*. When we say *yes* to God in our lives, we are asked to bring Christ into the world.

As we honor Mary this month, how will you say *yes* to God's voice in your life?

HIGHLIGHTING YOUTH MINISTRY CURRICULUM:

Who is Jesus Christ? – Objectives #7-10

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 #7-10 invite us to:

- Understand that our goal in life is to know, love and serve God.
- Articulate the Divine Revelation on death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory.
- Develop an appreciation for God's gift of heaven and understand the freedom to accept or reject God's love.
- Identify ourselves as members of the Communion of Saints.

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



FOR YOUR FORMATION: **Giving Thanks**

The end of the religious education year should be a time to celebrate the year and all its graces. Give thanks for the gifts of the year: getting to know the young people placed in your group, the laughs you shared while learning about the Gospels, the successful experiences, the moments when students remembered something you had talked about and applied it to a new concept, and the questions that showed kids were paying attention. Now is the time to celebrate all the graces you and the young people you are forming gained from the year's experiences. Celebrate and be thankful!

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

St. Dymphna

St. Dymphna is the patron saint of persons with mental illness. She has been named patroness of people with mental and emotional difficulties, not only because of the toll that her father's mental illness took on her family, but because of her own emotional and physical anguish as well. Her feast day is celebrated each year on May 15. Through the intercession of St. Dymphna, may we find healing as well as the wisdom and strength to support persons who have mental illness. You can learn more about the life and legacy of St. Dymphna by clicking on this link: <http://www.ncpd.org/node/1491>



FamilyMatters

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS:

May is the Month of Mary

May is considered the season of planting, growth, and the beginning of new life. The custom of the Catholic Church to set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God, goes back as far as the Ancient Greeks and Romans who dedicated this season to goddesses of fertility and blossoms. Beginning in the nineteenth century, special devotions to Mary were organized for each day of the month.

There are many ways to celebrate Marian devotion. Many churches have daily recitation of the rosary. A "May Crowning" is a traditional Catholic ritual that occurs early in the month of May. During this ceremony, which traditionally takes place before or after the Mass, a statue of Mary is honored with a wreath of flowers to indicate the beauty and virtue of Mary which are meant to be imitated by the faithful.

In some parts of the world, families set up a small May altar or prayer corner in their homes with a statue or picture of Mary, candles and flowers. May altars and crownings are not just "church" things. When we carry these customs and traditions into our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

For resources and ideas for honoring Mary during the month of May, see: <https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/archive.php?format=html&tags=Spirituality%20and%20Devotion|May+Devotions>

LOOKING AHEAD:

Upcoming Opportunities for Teaching the Faith

May 13: Ascension of the Lord

May 20: Pentecost Sunday

May: 21: Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church

(For more information about this new memorial recently added to the liturgical calendar, see:

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/memorial-of-mary-mother-of-the-church-added-to-liturgical-calendar-43501>)

May 27: Holy Trinity Sunday



ENGAGING TEENS: The Sacramental Component of Youth Ministry

This month, we turn our focus to the *Sacramental* component of Catholic youth ministry:

Effective Catholic youth ministry helps teens engage more fully and fruitfully in the Church's liturgy.

Full participation means that each one of us must bring our whole self into the celebration of the Mass. Active participation means we are called to be attentive listeners whose "Amen!" affirms what we believe as it is voiced in the Eucharistic Prayer. It is good and important for young people to volunteer in the various liturgical ministries, but this is not the "active participation" Vatican II refers to in the *Constitution on the Liturgy*. The Church desires each one of us to fully enter into the Mass with our entire heart, mind, body and soul.

How are you promoting the full, conscious and active participation of young people in the liturgy?

<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/Article/TabId/535/ArtMid/13567/ArticleID/14409/Plugging-teens->

SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES: May is Mental Health Awareness Month

It is essential for pastors, catechists, pastoral associates and teachers to educate parishioners, encouraging them to welcome persons with mental illness by reaching out to them and their family members. Following are suggestions that all members of the community of faith can do to give hope to those who live with mental illness:

- Prayer: We have an obligation to pray for one another, affirming our relationship as the family of Christ. We show our care and support through prayers that include the concerns of persons with mental illness, their families and those who care for them. The National Day of Prayer is May 3, 2018. A Mental Health Month Prayer Service is available here: <http://www.ncpd.org/node/1504>
- Bring Awareness: Many of your friends, family members, and co-workers will have a form of mental illness at sometime in their lives. Often "hidden," it nevertheless carries a stigma. Sharing experiences and open discussion can help reduce the stigma. Encourage all parishioners to be aware and involved in outreach to persons with mental challenges, and their families. Check out the newest resources from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) Council on Mental Illness: <http://www.ncpd.org/>



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 #4: Avoid interrupting your lesson.

One of the reasons children and adolescents misbehave is because they know their disruption will interrupt the flow of the lesson, frustrate you, and bring attention to them. Deal with discipline problems without stopping the lesson by using eye contact, placing a hand on the student's desk or tabletop, or standing next to the "culprit" while you continue to facilitate the lesson.

(Watch for more tips in upcoming issues!)

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

ENGAGING PARENTS AND FAMILIES: Celebrating Moms

A mother's love is one of the most powerful forces in this world. Here are some ways for young people to celebrate their mothers this Mother's Day:

- Create a Memory Jar filled with memories you and your mother share.
- Ask youth about what special things they love most about their mother and make a special "Thank You" card for their mom, or write her a special letter.
- Make a Blessing Book with family photos.
- Help a mother in need by donating to local organizations that help mothers and children.
- Send flowers to your mother, or to a new mom in your community.
- Spend time as a family looking through scrapbooks and photo albums and reflecting on the great love you receive from your family, especially from your mother.
- Make up a coupon book and offer to help with chores or projects Mom needs done. Be sure to include a "hug" coupon!
- Plan an old-fashioned tea party and enjoy your time together.
- Go for a walk with your mom and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.



For more ways to celebrate this Mother's Day: http://catholicmom.com/mothers_day.htm

EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER SPOTLIGHT:

Ever feel like you are trying to encounter Jesus in your own life, or helping others do the same, but you are stuck in a rut? Many saints remind us that the surest, easiest way to encounter Jesus is through Mary. The month of May is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. The ERC offers below a sampling of resources to help you plan a lesson on Mary and the Rosary that engages multiple senses and touches the heart. Although the resources are categorized to serve as an introduction to your lesson, the heart of your lesson, or a follow-up activity for your lesson, you may certainly use the resources in whatever order and capacity fits your individual situation. Contact the ERC for a multitude of additional resources on Mary and the Rosary!

	Young to Intermediate
Introduction	* CD 18696 - <i>Brother Francis Presents Walking With Jesus – The Rosary Prayers In Song</i> * BK 268120 - <i>Jesus And Mary In The Rosary: Echo Stories For Children</i> * BK 201055 - <i>The Rosary</i> (introduction to the Rosary and the Mysteries)
Heart of Lesson	* DV 30895 - <i>Brother Francis Presents: The Rosary - A Special Way To Pray</i>
Follow-up	* <i>Florida Center For Peace: Friends Of Jesus And Mary – The Rosary For Children</i> (variety of reproducible activities, games, etc. in English/Spanish) http://www.fcpeace.com/friends/Rosary_menu.htm
	Intermediate to Youth
Introduction	* <i>The Rosary (Instant Display Poster Set)</i> http://www.instantdisplay.co.uk/christianity.htm (scroll down)
Heart of Lesson	* DV 30124 - <i>Close Encounters With Mary And The Rosary</i> * BK 201357 - <i>Praying The Rosary With Mary</i> (the twenty Mysteries in first-person account according to Mary)
Follow-up	* BK 201054 - <i>My Scriptural Rosary</i>
	Youth to Adult
Introduction	* PO 01223 - <i>Teen Mysteries Of The Rosary Poster Set</i>
Heart of Lesson	* <i>The Mystery Of The Rosary: A Short Documentary On The Rosary</i> http://safeshare.tv/w/jBYLeQwvum
Follow-up	* CD 18368 - <i>Through Her Eyes: A Journey To Jesus</i> (Rosary with song and meditations) * <i>The Rosary</i> http://safeshare.tv/w/MCBDZFwhTD * <i>El Rosario</i> http://safeshare.tv/w/zWfuFrFRA
Hands-on Kit	* KA 04717 - <i>Adaptive Finding God Learning Tools: Praying The Rosary</i>
Don't forget Pinterest!	* Prayer - Rosary https://www.pinterest.com/dbqarch/prayer-the-rosary/ * Saints: Our Lady, Virgin and Mother https://www.pinterest.com/dbqarch/saints-our-lady-virgin-and-mother/