



To Teach As Jesus Did

April 2019

SACRED SPACE A Prayer for Easter

Lord Jesus,
You have risen to new life!
Give me new eyes with which to recognize your presence
in the world around me.
Sharpen my vision, so that I see beyond the ordinary events of each day,
and into the extraordinary reality of your grace.
Brighten my view of the world
with renewed hope in the coming of your Kingdom.
Soften my gaze, so that I view others
with the kind of tenderness and compassion
you showed to so many.
May each day of this Easter season
provide glimpses of your glory.
In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen! Alleluia!

www.Sadlier.com/Religion

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Teaching As Jesus Did

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures... (1 Cor 15:3-4)

In this passage, Paul recalls the basic kerygma about Jesus' life, death and resurrection --- the fundamental foundation of all Christian belief. Everything should be taught through the lens of the kerygma, pointing to and flowing from who Jesus Christ is, and discovering the ways the story of salvation gives meaning and purpose to our lives. Pray daily. Know your faith journey. Be willing to share it, and make the faith come alive through your witness. How do you integrate the kerygma into the lessons you teach?

HIGHLIGHTING YOUTH MINISTRY CURRICULUM The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery) Objectives #7 & 8

Theme #4, "The Mystery of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)" began in January, 2019. This theme focuses on how, by dying, Jesus destroyed our death and how, by rising, he restored our life...the Paschal Mystery. Participants will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him, which is accomplished through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, to which we are called to live.

Objectives #7 & 8:

- * Connect the suffering and death of Jesus with the Passover
- * Understand that humankind has been given the opportunity to share in eternal life through Christ's resurrection and victory over death.

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

FOR YOUR FORMATION Aim for Self-Improvement

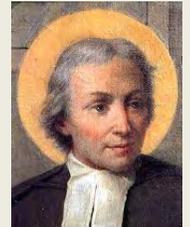
Know yourself and work to reflect the following Christian virtues in your life:

- * Patience...to respond calmly to the child who asks lots of questions
- * Understanding...to separate the behavior from the child
- * Integrity...to refrain from speaking about a child's faults in front of others
- * Perseverance...to try again after a lesson seems ineffective
- * Knowledge...to answer questions or at least to know where to find the answers
- * Discipline...to teach a good lesson, regardless of how you feel
- * Love...to cherish your students

Your mental outlook to a great extent determines your success. Aim to be your best self, the best disciple of Christ that you can be, and God will work through you.
(From *Discipline Tips* by Kathleen Glavich, SND, ©2004, pg. 8-9)

SAINT OF THE MONTH John Baptist de la Salle – April 7

John was born to a rich and well-known family in France, but he spent his life teaching the poor. In those days, only the rich could afford to send their children to school. John became a priest, and met a man named Adrian Nyel. Adrian had a dream of educating poor children, and he wanted John to help him. John did not enjoy going into the poor areas of the city, but Adrian convinced him to help begin a school for poor boys. John began training teachers. He taught them how to plan lessons and keep order in classrooms. Soon this community of teachers became the "Brothers of the Christian Schools." They were the first religious group whose special mission was to teach the poor. The brothers taught their students how to live in the world as Christians. Back in those days, classes were taught in Latin. But the Brothers taught in the language of the people, so all could understand. John realized that this work was a call from God. He gave away his share of the family fortune to the victims of a famine. Then John opened the first teachers' college, schools for poor children in Paris and other French cities, and industrial schools for boys. Not everyone understood John's bold actions, but he worked for the good of the people, and for the glory of God. John Baptist de la Salle died on Good Friday at the age of 68. He is the patron saint of teachers.



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TEACHABLE MOMENTS Divine Mercy Sunday



Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. It is based on the private revelations of St. Faustina Kowalska, which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy. The Divine Mercy image is a depiction of Jesus based on a vision that St. Faustina had in 1931. Jesus is shown raising his right hand in blessing, and pointing with his left hand on his chest from which flows two rays: one red and one white. The depiction often includes the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus (which is the life of souls), and white for the water (which makes souls righteous).

The whole image is symbolic of charity, forgiveness and love of God, referred to as the "Fountain of Mercy." The image depicts the merciful fountain of grace flowing from the pierced Heart of Christ on the Cross, and the visible (sacramental) signs of grace, Baptism and Eucharist, standing for all the sacraments of the Church. To learn more about Divine Mercy Sunday, see: www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/index.htm.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a set of prayers used as part of the Divine Mercy devotion. These prayers are usually said using a standard set of rosary beads, but with a different set of prayers than those used in the Marian Rosary. For more information about the chaplet, see: www.divinemercysunday.com/chaplet.htm.

LOOKING AHEAD Opportunities for Teaching the Faith

April 14: Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins
April 16: Chrism Mass
April 18-20: Easter Triduum
April 21: Easter Sunday
April 22: Earth Day
April 28: Divine Mercy Sunday
June 9: Pentecost Sunday





ENGAGING TEENS **The Formative Component of Youth Ministry**

This month, we continue our focus on the *Formative* component of Catholic youth ministry:

Effective Catholic youth ministry seeks to form teens culturally, helping them better understand how to use technology and discern messages in media.

Teens are perpetually plugged into technology, and they pride themselves on being socially conscious. They are the most diverse generation, accustomed to spending time with those who hold different religious, political or cultural beliefs.

While each culture has its own ways of expressing their love of God, cultural diversity can be a strength. We learn much from each other. We come together to become one community, one Body of Christ. We should pray to the Holy Spirit who can always bring unity out of our diversity.

The Church must continue to stress the fact that every single person has something to bring, that everyone is welcome. Our teens must be formed as disciples who are empowered to go out and share the gospel with their peers from all cultural backgrounds.

Encourage young people to enter into a deeper relationship with God by recognizing God and sharing faith through technology and cultural diversity.

<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweeklv/Story/TabId/2672/ArtMID/13567/ArticleID/14409/Pluqaing-teens-into-the-faith-A-how-to-guide.aspx>

DISCIPLINE IN THE CLASSROOM

Discipline Tips from Kathleen Glavich, SND

As a catechist, you will inevitably encounter discipline problems at some point. Discipline is a necessary part of faith formation. When you maintain discipline in your learning environment, you are acting in the image of God – in whose name you teach. In upcoming editions of *TTAJD*, we will draw from the book *Discipline Tips*, written by Kathleen Glavich, SND, who suggests helpful ideas for providing a positive learning environment while avoiding the distractions a lack of discipline can bring to the classroom.

Developing Positive Attitudes

Positive attitudes toward ourselves and those we teach will yield positive results. Visualize yourself as a vital and successful catechist, and chances are that is exactly what you will be! God has chosen you and called you to the ministry of catechesis. Always be a model of Christ. Along with authority, radiate enthusiasm, joy and calm. This will help children respect and like you at the same time. Show the kids that you think they are great. Show you have confidence in them, and give them the feeling that you care about them. Show interest in each child. Create a comfortable order that gives structure, yet frees children to learn efficiently and joyfully.

(From *Discipline Tips* by Kathleen Glavich, SND, © 2004, p. 7-10.)

SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES

April is Autism Awareness Month

The prevalence of autism is an increasing reality in the parishes and schools of the Catholic Church in the United 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.

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) offers numerous resources for family, parish and catechetical observation of Autism Awareness Month. Find these resources at <http://www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/autism>.

Consult the Education Resource Center at the Archdiocese of Dubuque regarding books, DVDs, games, and other multimedia and online resources helpful for catechesis of persons with special needs.

For more information about Autism Awareness Month and other resources for inclusion of persons with diverse abilities, please contact Mindy Hart, Director of the Office of Disability Inclusion at dbqcpwd@dbqarch.org.



ENGAGING PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Preparing for Easter

Families can prepare their homes and their hearts for the joyous celebration of Easter with these and other Easter activities:

- Watch “new life” grow – Plant fast-growing seeds and observe the plant growing together throughout the Easter season. Go on a nature walk and look for budding flowers. Help children connect the bursting seed with the resurrection of Jesus
- Bring “new life” to others – Find meaningful ways to impact the community. Bring the hope of the resurrection to someone in need. Make a commitment to serving others weekly through Pentecost
- Commit to family prayer – Gather as a family daily. Sharing family prayers helps us to grow closer to God and to one another
- Be thankful! – Write a prayer of gratitude for Christ’s gift of life

Whatever you choose to do, make it a multi-generational event designed to bring children, youth, and adults together to pray, share faith, and learn more about Easter practices and traditions.

EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER SPOTLIGHT:

The ERC offers a variety of resources — both for lending or available online — that help people of all ages begin to understand that the Mass gives them an opportunity to truly encounter Christ. The celebrations of Holy Week and First Communion may present opportunities to share the joy of encountering Jesus in the Eucharist and *Spread the MESSAGE with MEDIA!* See questions and sample resource below, and complete listing in “Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist” in the Media Picks listings at

<https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/education-resource-center/new-media-media-picks/>

For more resources and options, contact the ERC staff.

Kim – 563.556.2580 X210 or dbqmed@dbqarch.org

Tricia – 563.556.2580 X214 or dbqmed1@dbqarch.org

Before presenting any of the resources, ask:

- How far do you think you would travel to go to an event if you knew Jesus was going to be there?
- How far do you think you would travel if you could spend time and have a conversation with Jesus, truly present?
- How far do you think you would travel to go to a place if Jesus made a promise that he would be there, in person, but in a way that you could not physically see him?

Choose any one (or more) of the resources available using the link above.

A sample:

BK200776 Handshake From Heaven
Encounter Jesus who comes to truly touch us in the Eucharist



After presenting the resource(s) ask:

- According to what you have just heard/seen, where can you go to be with Jesus? (Mass/Eucharist)
- How did this show that Jesus is at Mass/in the Eucharist in a special way?
- Can you talk directly with Jesus during Mass? When? (Especially after receiving Him in Holy Communion.)
- Which stories from the Bible tell us that Jesus is with us each time we celebrate the Eucharist? (the Last Supper, Bread of Life Discourse (John 6), the Road to Emmaus)
- Why do you think we sometimes take it for granted that Jesus is truly present to us at Mass?
- What do you think we mean when we say we can “encounter Jesus at Mass”? (experience Him, talk to Him like a real friend, feel His presence in our hearts)
- What might you do to help yourself encounter Jesus every time you go to Mass? How can you help others encounter Jesus at Mass?

If your church suddenly disappeared, how far do you think you would travel to go to Mass where you know Jesus is present — so that you could receive Him in Holy Communion, speak to Him, and receive His forgiveness?