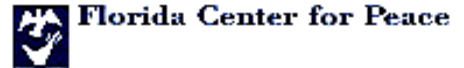




Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

December 2008
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Advent started on November 30, Christmas preparations begin. We should prepare our hearts to receive Jesus with prayers and little sacrifices and acts of love. Together with the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the shepherds; let us adore and love Him. In this way our hearts will be ready to receive Him and live a true Christmas.

Important feasts and Saints:

December 3 *Saint Francis Xavier*
December 6 *Saint Nicholas*
December 6 *Leader's Workshop*
December 8 *Immaculate Conception*
December 9 *Saint Juan Diego*
December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

December 13 *Saint Lucy*
December 14 *Saint John of the Cross*
December 25 *Christmas Day*
December 27 *Saint John the Apostle*
December 28 *Holy Innocents*
December 30 *Holy Family*

Enclosed materials:

- 1) *Monthly calendar*
- 2) *Sunday Gospel*
- 3) *Walking towards Bethlehem Game*
- 4) *Life of San Sebastian*
- 5) *Life of Carlo Acutis*

Suggested videos (All available in the "Video Club")

1. *Saint Nicholas*
2. *Saint Francis Xavier*
3. *The Birth of Jesus*
4. *Christmas*
5. *Messenger of Guadalupe*
6. *The Angel Song -Cherub Wings*
7. *Saint John of the Cross*
8. *And other Christmas videos*

We would also like to thank you for the efforts you have performed to bring the word of God to the children, and for continuing to work and support our endeavors.

In the internet you can find more activities for Advent.

The Committee of the Friends of Jesus and Mary would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas. May God's blessings shine upon you and your families during the holidays.



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María





Florida Center for Peace

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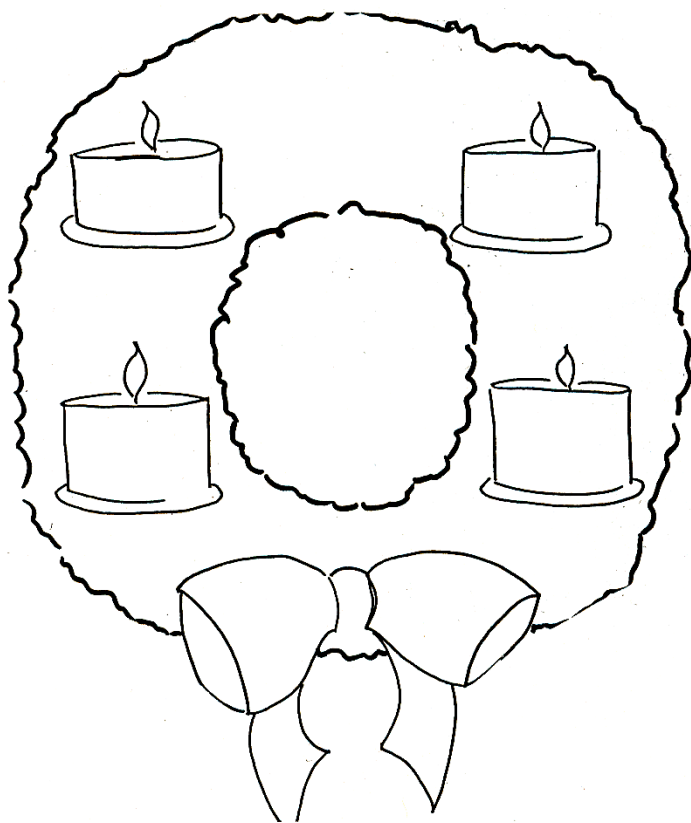
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>1 <i>Natalia</i></p> <p><i>Is 2, 1-5</i> <i>Ps 121</i> <i>Mt 8,5-11</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Is 11,1-10</i> <i>Ps 71</i> <i>Lk 10,21-24</i></p>	<p>3 <i>St. Francis Xavier</i></p> <p><i>Is 25, 6-10</i> <i>Ps 22</i> <i>Mt 15,29-37</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Is 26, 1-6</i> <i>Ps 117</i> <i>Mt 7,24,24-27</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Is 29,17-24</i> <i>Ps 26</i> <i>Mt 9,35-10, 1,6-8</i></p>	<p>6 <i>Nicholas (Patron of Children)</i></p> <p><i>Is 30, 19-21.23-26</i> <i>Ps 46</i> <i>Mt 9,35-10, 1,6-8</i></p>	
<p>7 <i>II Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p><i>Is 40, 1-5.9-11</i> <i>Ps 84</i> <i>2P 3,8-14</i> <i>Mk 1,1-8</i></p>	<p>8 <i>Immaculate Conception</i></p> <p><i>Gen 3,9-15.20</i> <i>Ps 97</i> <i>Eph 1,3-6,11-12</i> <i>Lk 1, 26-38</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Is 40,1-11</i> <i>Ps 95</i> <i>Mt, 12-14</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Is 40,25-31</i> <i>Ps 102</i> <i>Mt 11,28-30</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Is 41,13-20</i> <i>Ps 144</i> <i>Mt 11,11-15</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i></p> <p><i>Sir 24,23-31</i> <i>Ps 66</i> <i>Gal 4,4-7</i> <i>Lk 1,39-48</i></p>	<p>13 <i>Sr. Lucy</i></p> <p><i>Sir 48, 1-4.9-11</i> <i>Ps 79</i> <i>Mt 17,10-13</i></p> <p>Taller de Lideres</p>
<p>14 <i>III Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p><i>Is 61, 1-2.10-11</i> <i>Lc1/1Th 5,16-24</i> <i>Jn 1,6-8.19-28</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Num 24,2-7.15-17</i> <i>Ps 24</i> <i>Mt 21,23-27</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Zep 3,1-2.9-13</i> <i>Ps 33</i> <i>Mt 21,28-32</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Gen 49,2.8-10</i> <i>Ps 71</i> <i>Mt 1,1-17</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Jr 23,5-8</i> <i>Ps 71</i> <i>Mt 1,18-24</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Jg 13,2-7.24-25</i> <i>Ps 70</i> <i>Lk 1,5-25</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Is 7,10-14</i> <i>Ps 23</i> <i>Lk 1,26-38</i></p>
<p>21 <i>IV Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p><i>2S 7,1-5.8-12.14.16</i> <i>Ps 88</i> <i>Ro 16,25-27</i> <i>Lk 1,26-38</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>1 S 1,24-28</i> <i>1 S 2</i> <i>Lk 1,46-56</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Ml 3,1-4.23-24</i> <i>Ps 24</i> <i>Lk 1,57-66</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>2 S 7,1-5.8-12.16-14</i> <i>Ps 88</i> <i>Lk 1,67-79</i></p>	<p>25 <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i></p> <p><i>Is 52,7-10</i> <i>Ps 97</i> <i>He 1,1-6</i> <i>Jn 1,1-18</i></p>	<p>26 <i>St. Stephen</i></p> <p><i>Acts 6,8-10; 7,54-59</i> <i>Ps 30</i> <i>Mt. 10,17-22</i></p>	<p>27 <i>St. John Apostle</i></p> <p><i>1 Jn 1,1-4</i> <i>Ps 96</i> <i>Jn 20,2-8</i></p>
<p>28 <i>The Holy Innocents</i> <i>The Holy Family</i></p> <p><i>Sir 3,3-7.14-17</i> <i>Ps 127</i> <i>Col 3,12-21</i> <i>Lk 2,22-40</i></p>	<p>29 <i>St. Thomas Becket</i></p> <p><i>1 Jn 2,3-11</i> <i>Ps 95</i> <i>Lk 2,22-35</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>1 Jn 2,12-17</i> <i>Ps 95</i> <i>Lk 2,36-40</i></p>	<p>31 <i>St. Silvestre</i></p> <p><i>1 Jn 2,18-21</i> <i>Ps 95</i> <i>Jn 1,1-18</i></p>			

ADVENT WREATH

Everyone in the family can be involved in making an Advent Wreath for your home. Explain the symbolism of each part. Decide how each person will participate in preparing the wreath and in daily or weekly family devotions. The first time you gather to pray around the wreath, have some review the meaning of each part.

Circular Shape

The Advent wreath is a circle. We cannot find the end or the beginning of a circle. The circular Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus came to give us a life that will never end, eternal life with God in heaven.



Make an Advent Wreath

You can make an advent wreath for each child of your group

Materials needed:

- 1) One small paper plate
- 2) One donut for each
- 3) Four birthday candles three purple and one pink
- 4) A small green doilet

How to prepare it:

Place the donut in the paper plate over doilet. Open the holes for the candles on the donut.

Spray it to preserve it. When they are dry, place the candle on the donut and decorate it with a ribbon.

Evergreen Branches

The evergreen branches used to make the circle do not change color as do the leaves on other kinds of trees. The evergreens in the Advent wreath remind us that God never changes: God always has loved us and always will.

Candles

There are four candles on the Advent wreath, one for each week in Advent. They remind us that the Jewish people waited a long time for the Savior to come. The burning candles remind us that Christ, the Light of the World, brightness the darkness around us. Each week we light one more candle, a sign that the more we let Christ into our lives, the brighter our lives will be.

Opening Prayer

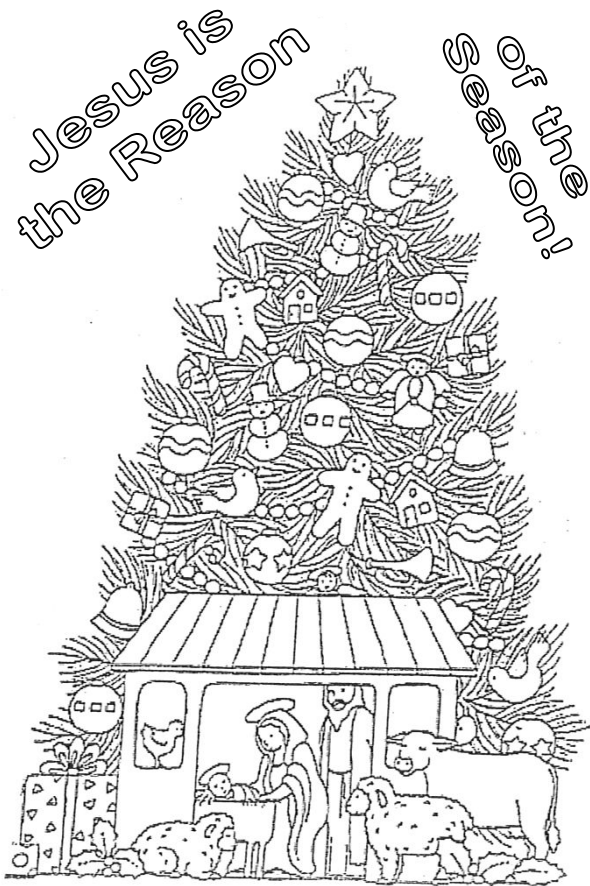
O God, bless this Advent wreath. May it help us prepare to welcome Jesus, your Son, into our lives, letting the light of his love shine through us. Amen.

Week 1 (*Light 1 candle*) Come to us, Lord Jesus. Warm our hearts with your love. Help us to prepare for your coming. Help us to see the good things we can do. Help us to see the good things others do. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

Week 2 (*Light 2 candles*) We believe in you Lord. We know that you can help us to love each other more. You are our light. Come Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

Week 3 (*Light 3 candles*) Jesus, we want your coming to make a difference in how we live and love. Open our hearts to hear you telling us how we can bring peace and joy to others. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

Week 4 (*Light 4 candles*) Quiet the worries and fears in our hearts, Lord. Give us your peace. Thank you for the life you share with us. Help us to share that life with others. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)



TO: _____

TO: _____

FROM: _____

FROM: _____

**JESUS IS BORN!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**JESUS IS BORN!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*“a Child is born to us!
A son is given to us”*

*“a Child is born to us!
A son is given to us”*

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 9:6





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Second Sunday in Advent; December 7, 2008

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.

The Preaching of John the Baptist



This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It began As the prophet Isaiah had written: "God said, "I will send my messenger Ahead of you to open the way for you." Someone is shouting in the desert, "Get ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!"

So John appeared in the dessert, baptizing and preaching. "Turn away from your sins and be baptized," he told the people, "and God will forgive your sins." Many people from the providence of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. He announced to the people. "The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptized you with water but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Reflection

The readings of this week call us to conversion and also invites us to participate in the creation of a new world by preparing the way to receive Jesus. To prepare, we need to eliminate selfishness, deceit, and violence in ourselves and in the world around us. We have to bring hope, joy happiness and peace to all.

Activity and Prayer

Encourage the children to share the things they are going to offer Jesus this week. As they express their commitments for the week, each one turns on a light on the altar.

(Use battery lights).

Then the second Advent candle is light, for the second week of this season.

All together pray saying: "Jesus we want to prepare the way for you! Come!"



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Third Sunday of Advent/ December 14, 2008

Readings: Isaiah: 61, 1-2, 10-11; Psalm ; 1 Thessalonians 5, 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light.

The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, "Who are you?" John did not refuse to answer but spoke out openly and clearly, saying: "I am not the Messiah."

"Who are you, then?" they asked "Are you Elijah?" "No, I am not," John answered. "Are you the Prophet?" they asked. "No," he replied. "Then tell us who you are," they said. "We have to take back an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John then answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah:

"I am 'the voice of someone shouting in the dessert: Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!'"

The messengers, who had been sent by the Pharisees, then asked John, "If you are not the Messiah nor Elijah nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?" John answered, "I baptize with water, but among you stands the one you do not know. He is coming after me, but I am not good enough even to untie his sandals."

All this happened in Bethany on the east side of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

Reflection

In this week gospel, the same as last Sunday, the voice of someone shouting in the dessert, John, is showing the straight path to travel to receive Jesus.

The Holy Spirit, teaches us to pray in hope.

The prayer of the Church and our personal prayer nourish hope on us.

Jesus speaks to us about the joy that comes from doing the right things, praying, being grateful, and defending those who are treated unfairly. Have you ever felt such joy? Give time for the children to reflect on the question.



Activity and Prayer

*Hand out jingle bells to each child, explaining that the bells express joy. Sing Christmas songs
Light the third candle, for the third week of Advent.
Encourage each child to express his or her commitment for the week. After each child express his commitment all answer: "You give us joy Jesus" and ring the bells.*



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Fourth Sunday of advent / December 21, 2008

Readings: 2 Samuel 7, 1-5.8-12.14-16; Psalm 88; Romans 16, 25-27; Luke 1, 26-38

The Birth of Jesus is Announced

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is

with you and has greatly blessed you! Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!" Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin.

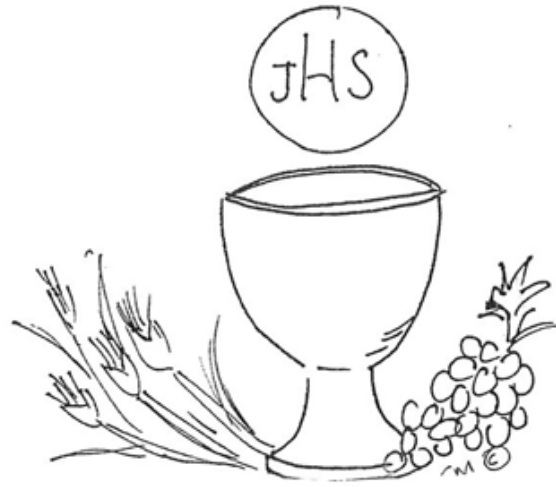
How, then, can this be? The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will

come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do." I am the Lord's servant", said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her. (Luke 1, 26-38)

UN ANGEL ANUNCIA EL NACIMIENTO DE JE-



JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM



HE STAYS WITH US IN THE EUCHARIST

Reflection

Talk with the children about houses and what makes a house a home.

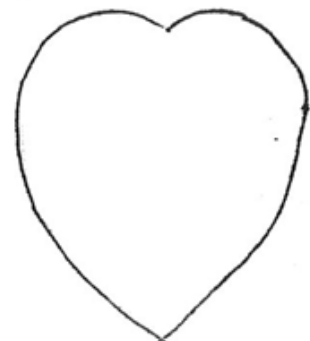
What would you need? (Decorations, comfortable furniture, neatness, etc.) How can we be a dwelling place or home for God, since Jesus wants to come to each and every one of us?

Do you have doors in your house? Do we also have doors in our hearts? How are we going to open our "doors" and hearts to Jesus?

Activity and Prayer

Give each child a little house cut of cardboard. Ask them to write their names on the door. On the back write their commitment for the week, to prepare a good house for Jesus. Place your house in the Christmas tree or at the Nativity set.

Prayer together saying: "Yes, Lord we want you to come to our house and to our hearts." Come, Jesus, come! Help us to put in order our relationship, lives and hearts; so that you may come and dwell in us. Amen.



AND WANTS TO REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Nativity-25 of December 2008

Readings: Isaiah 52, 7-10 Psalm 97 Hebrews 1, 1-6 John 1, 1-18

Jesus is the best present

In the beginning the word already existed; the word was with God, and the word was God. From the very beginning the word was with God.

Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This was the real light-the light that comes into the world and shines on all people.

The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him.

Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

The word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'" Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. God gave the law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known, (John 1,1-18)



Reflection

In this gospel we can see who in the Word there is life and in life there is light. Light that shines in darkness. We can observe that the coming of Jesus divides the history in two parts. Darkness before Jesus and Light after Jesus. Whom are you going to be, sons of darkness or sons of light? Jesus is the true light in which the promises have been fulfilled. The Word made flesh. He is not a dream, it is a reality.

Activity

Act the story of the nativity of Jesus.

Write in a piece of paper the names of the different persons in the story, so that Jesus would be the one to pick them

Sing Christmas songs. At the end of the representation each child can express what he or she wants to give to Jesus.

Prayer

Jesus newly born, you are our God.

You come to change our hearts and to tell us that we are all equal., children of the great love of God. You come to show us to share. You are our best gift.

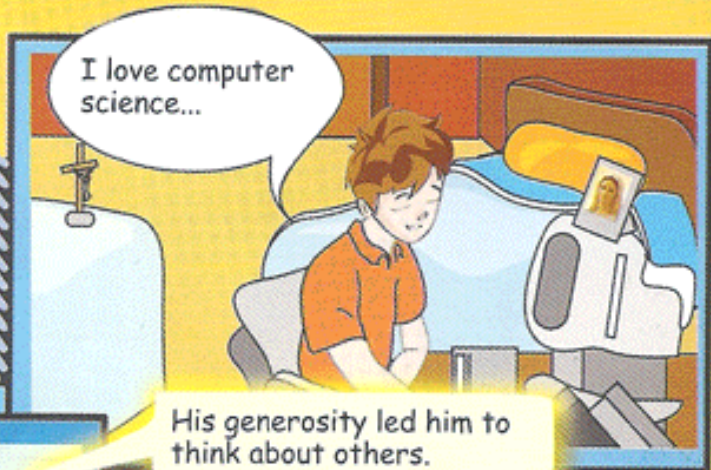
Teach us to, out of love, change the world with you. Amen



Carlo Acutis

Carlo Acutis was a 15-year-old young man from Milan. He was handsome, cheerful, and enthusiastic about life. He was born in Milan, Italy, on May 3, 1991.

He read books about computer engineering, which had everyone surprised. However, he put this gift at the service of others. He helped out in his parish and did volunteer work.



His generosity led him to think about others.



He was sensitive to the needs of all of his friends.

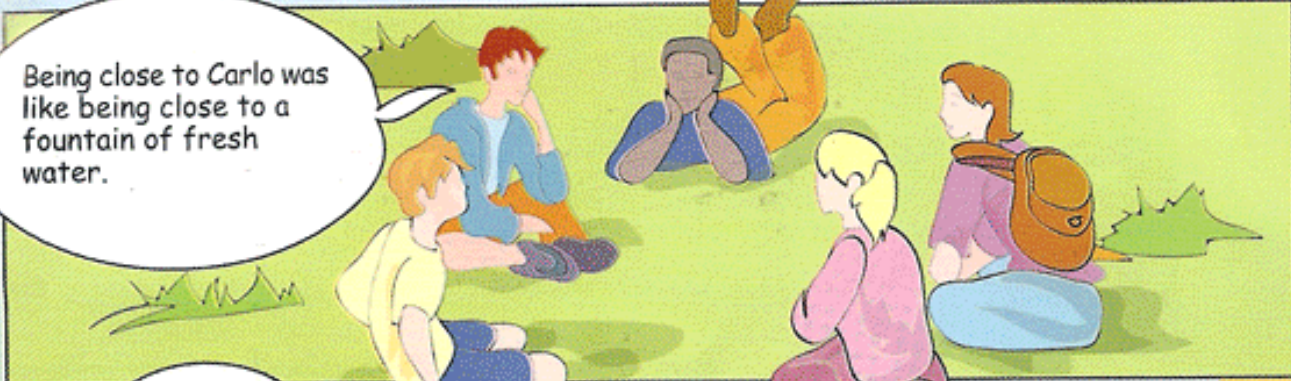
Carlo, my parents want to get divorced.

Why don't you come over to my house so we can talk?


Foreigners, poor people, handicapped... everyone had a place in his heart.



Aren't you embarrassed?



Being close to Carlo was like being close to a fountain of fresh water.




Where does he get the strength?

He must have some secret.




Hello, kids!

It's Carlo's mother.




Umm, I think that Carlo's secret is that he receives the Eucharist every day, ever since his First Communion.

Talk to us about Carlo. What is his secret?



He calls it his highway to heaven.

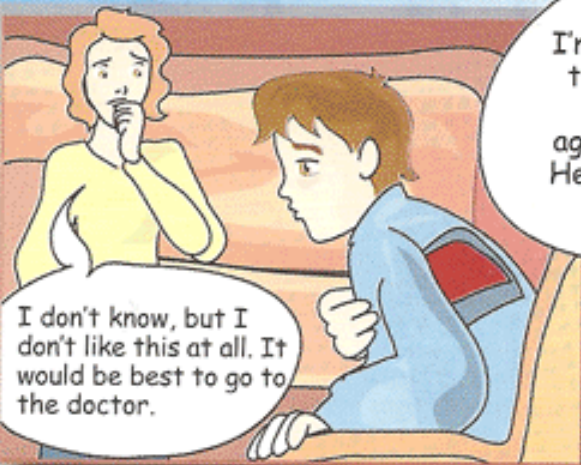


He also prays the rosary every day and visits Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Of course!

H.M. ZOOM No 57.

One day Carlo didn't feel too well. At first they thought it was unimportant but...



I don't know, but I don't like this at all. It would be best to go to the doctor.

I'm sorry to give you this bad news, but Carlo has a very aggressive leukemia. He doesn't have very much time left.



On October 1, 2006, he entered the hospital.



Are you suffering a lot, Carlo?

There are people that suffer more than I do.

His illness advanced rapidly and on October 12, 2006, Carlo died. The heroic way that he faced his illness and death are a testimony of faith for the young people of his age.



Maybe we will see him canonized soon!



Lord, I offer you all of my sufferings for the Pope and the Church.





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Holy Family – December 28, 2008

Readings: Si 3, 2-6, 12-14; Psalm 127 Col 3, 12-21; Luke 2, 22-40

Jesus is presented in the temple

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord," They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord. At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the temple to do for him what the law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God: Now, Lord you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: A light to reveal you will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart. There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the temple; day and night she worshiped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

Reflection

Saint Paul gives us a program of family life based on love, patience, and compassion.

Just as it was for Mary and Joseph, following the will of God might bring us pain and difficulty, but Jesus is our light and will always give us peace to act properly.

Talk with the children about their families.

What is the most important thing to their families?

What do they like about their homes and families?

Which one in your families is an example of faith?

How do you show the love you have for your parents?

Do you fulfill your duties around the house?

Activity

Give each child a blank paper. Ask them to draw each person on their family. Write the qualities of each one.

Prayer

Pray for each member of their families.

Have each child name the members of his or her family or mention certain needs one of their family members has. All answer: "

Bless our family, Lord".

Holy God, our Father, bless these families and help us to imitate your son's selflessness. Help us to work to satisfy the spiritual and material needs of our family members and our brothers and sisters. Amen



Saint Sebastian

TEXT AND DRAWINGS
SR. MARIA OF GOD, S.H.M

THERE ISN'T A LOT OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SAINT, BUT EVEN SO, WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT HIM TO FEEL A DEVOTION TO HIM AND TO FEEL MOVED TO IMITATE HIS VIRTUES.

THE SON OF A MILITARY OFFICER AND NOBLE MAN, HE GREW UP AND WAS EDUCATED IN MILAN IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 3RD CENTURY.

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!

FORWARD, MEN! TO WIN OR TO DIE!

DAD, WHEN I GROW UP, CAN I BE A SOLDIER AS STRONG AS YOU AND HAVE WEAPONS LIKE THAT?

HAHA YES, SON BUT DO YOU KNOW WHO IS THE STRONGEST OF ALL THE ONE WHO FIGHTS FOR GOODNESS AND TRUTH, NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS.

SO YOU CAN ALREADY START THIS VERY DAY TO PREPARE YOUR HEART. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?

HE WAS STILL VERY YOUNG WHEN HE BEGAN HIS MILITARY CAREER.

WELL, C'AYO, WE'LL CONTINUE TOMORROW, OKAY?

YES, OF COURSE, THAT IS, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

HAIL VICTOR! I BRING ORDERS FROM THE EMPEROR. SEBASTIAN MUST PRESENT HIMSELF IN THE PALACE TODAY TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POSITION.

TELL HIM YOURSELF... HERE HE COMES WITH THAT YOUNG SOLDIER THAT HE HAS BEEN TRAINING - AN AUTHENTIC ONE IF EVER THERE WAS ONE THAT'S HOW HE SPENDS HIS SPARE TIME. WHAT PATIENCE!

HE WILL BE A GOOD CAPTAIN OF THE ROYAL GUARD. THE EMPEROR KNOWS HOW TO CHOOSE HIS CLOSEST MEN, DON'T YOU THINK?

AROUND THAT TIME THERE WAS AN OUTBREAK OF THE CRUELEST PERSECUTION EVER KNOWN ANYONE WHO REFUSED TO ADORE THE GODS WAS ARRESTED AND MARTYRED... THE CHRISTIANS HAD TO GO INTO HIDING.

SEBASTIAN WHY HAVE YOU VENTURED TO COME TO MY HOUSE? IF ANYONE SEES YOU THEY WILL FIND OUT THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN.

AND SO WHAT! THERE IS NOTHING TO HIDE. I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG... FATHER, DO YOU THINK I SHOULD SPEAK WITH THE EMPEROR? HE THINKS HIGHLY OF ME.

ONLY GOD KNOWS WHY THIS TRIAL HAS BEEN SENT TO US. PERHAPS THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE PURIFIED. YOU SAY NOTHING, SON THEY WOULD ONLY KILL YOU AS THEY HAVE DONE WITH SO MANY OF OUR BROTHERS.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT?

YOU ARE ACCUSED OF HIGH TREASON WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE CHRISTIANS.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS A CRIME!

I AM NOT AFRAID, ON THE CONTRARY, WHAT GREATER LUCK IS THERE THAN TO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR HIM!

YES, BUT LET IT BE THE LORD WHO DECIDES WHEN. PRAY AND REMAIN FAITHFUL, BRAVE AND IN GOOD SPIRITS GO WITH MY BLESSING.



OUR S'ANT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS HIGH POSITION VISITED THE PRISONERS. HE CONSOLED THEM AND FILLED THEM WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH.

HELLO SEBASTIAN HOW IS EVERYTHING GOING?

MARCO AND MARCELINO ARE ALREADY IN HEAVEN. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE PEACE AND JOY WITH WHICH THEY WENT TO THEIR MARTYRDOM.



MY GOOD CAPTAIN, SUCH NONSENSE EH.. THEY HAVE REPORTED TO ME THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN H A H A H A. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?

ONLY THAT IT IS NO NONSENSE, MY LORD.

WHAT! BUT I TRUST IN YOU. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME THAT YOU ALSO ARE A TRAITOR.

I HAVE NEVER FAILED YOU IN ANYTHING, LORD. BUT I CANNOT ADORE FALSE LITTLE GODS. MY HEART AND MY FAITH BELONG TO CHRIST.

YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE EITHER ROMER WITH ME, OR DEATH WITH "HIM".

DO NOT NEED TO THINK. THE DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE.

OLÉ WAY TO GO, DIVINE GRACE SO SPEAKS A SOLDIER OF CHRIST! SI SEÑOR...



HE WAS CONDEMNED TO DIE BY BEING RIDDLED WITH ARROWS.. WHEN A PIOUS WOMAN WENT TO COLLECT THE CORPSE SHE DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE.



SEBASTIAN, NOW THAT YOU ARE ALMOST HEALED.. DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU SHOULD GET AWAY FROM HERE FOR A WHILE?

I DON'T KNOW I RENE, I HAVE TO PRAY VERY MUCH IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT GOD WANTS OF ME.. I FEEL THAT I SHOULD'NT HIDE.



M.OVED BY THE LORD HE PRESENTED HIMSELF AGAIN IN THE PALACE TO BRING THE EMPEROR FACE TO FACE WITH THE EVIL HE WAS COMMITTING. THE EMPEROR GOT A NICE FRIGHT WHEN HE SAW HIM.. AND HE ORDERED THAT HE BE KILLED ONCE AGAIN. THIS TIME YES, HE WON THE PALM OF MARTYRDOM. IT WAS THE YEAR 304.

YOU HAVE ARRIVED, MY SON.

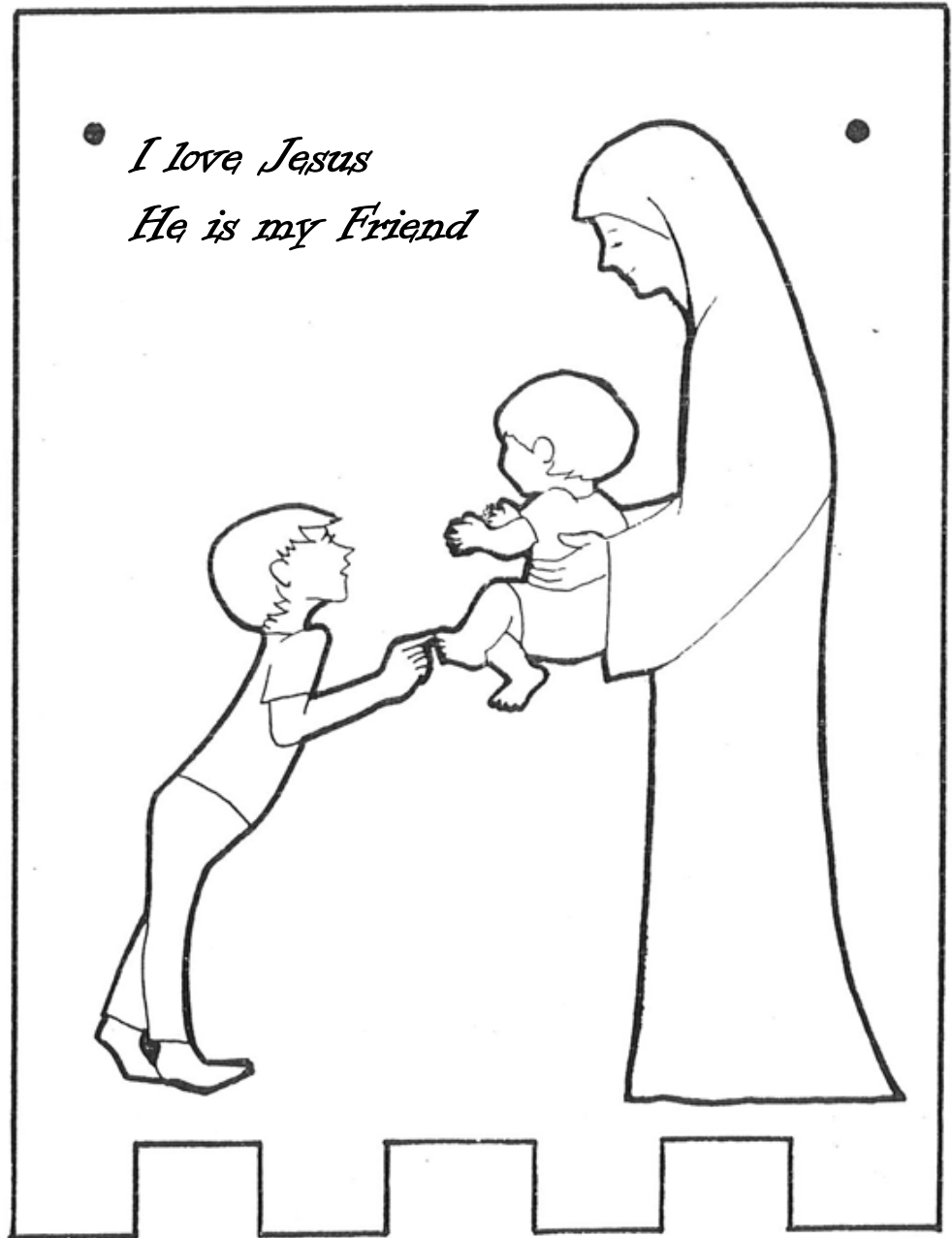
OUR MOTHER LOVES THIS GENEROUS AND DARING SOLDIER VERY MUCH - HE WAS WISE ENOUGH TO CHOOSE CHRIST, THE ONLY KING WHO LOVES US AND WHO MAKES US HAPPY IN A KINGDOM THAT NEVER ENDS AND YOU, WHAT KING DO YOU CHOOSE?

Christmas

Jesus Banner

Christmas is the
Birthday of Jesus.
He is our greatest gift.

Color the picture and
cut out the Banner.
Make holes on the
black dots, pull yarn
through and hang the
Banner in your home
to remind of the loves
of Jesus.



Explanation of the Game Walking towards Bethlehem

The virgin Mary needs very little to be our Mom but she does need our help, and we are going to keep Her company in Her journey to Bethlehem, Every stone on the path is a day, you see? Every day we are going to make the effort to be better; to help Mom, to our shores well, not to fight with our friends or with our brothers and sisters, to be obedient, to share my things with others, to pray with lots of love, to watch less television and to study more, to get up immediately when I'm called ... If things go well, at the end of the day we color in the stone that corresponds with the day we are in with red ink (red is the color of love) if not, we color in black.

It is a path that you have to make with joy, because God is going to be born for you!

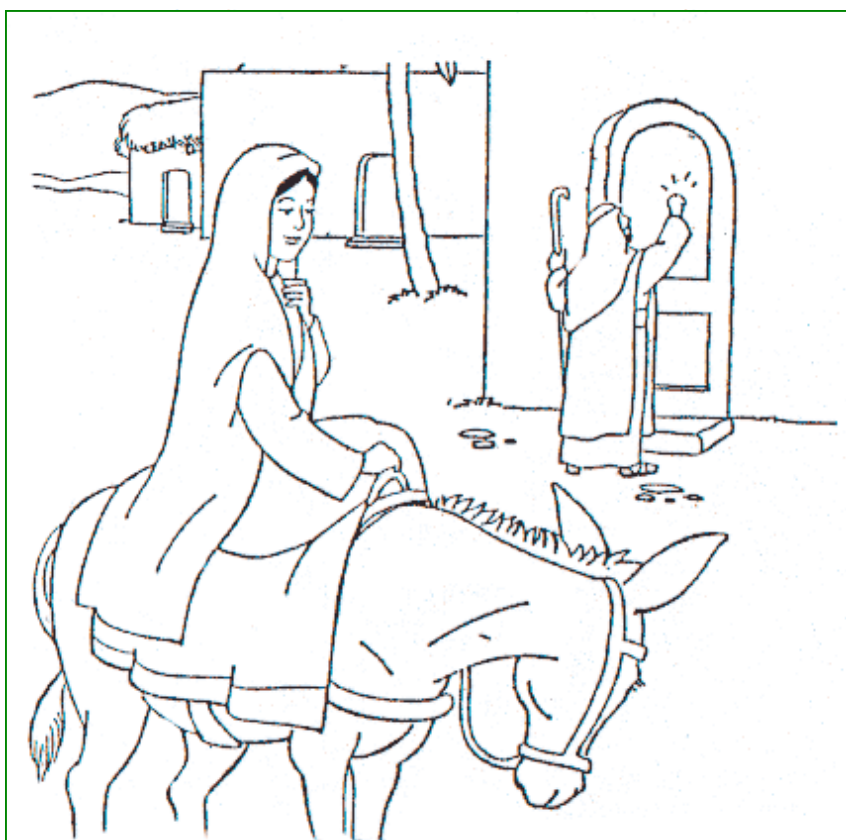
Your good deeds will be best Christmas Carols and your heart the best crib. Put the poster up in your room and with the help of Mary and all the little angels of heaven you will be able to receive Jesus better than ever before.

Ah, one more thing! Don't forget to go to confession, if you are old enough. And receive communion very often during this advent and specially at Christmas, This is the best way of all to celebrate it.

Advent is the time in which the church awaits the arrival of the Savior. It consists of 4 weeks. And it ends on Christmas Eve.

It is very important that we prepare ourselves well for the great day of Christmas. Jesus wants to be born again in your heart.

**¡JESUS IS COMING!
GET YOUR HEART
READY**





WALKING TOWARDS
BETHLEHEM

Message for the Season of Advent and Christmas For the leaders of “Friends of Jesus and Mary”

Once again we are at the door of a new Liturgical Year. The season of Advent and the celebrations of Christmas invite us to meditate once again on the mysteries of our faith starting with the incarnation of the Word of God. “Emmanuel” – God is with us is present in a child. We, that through God’s calling, serve God through our children, cannot miss the opportunity to delve into this mystery.

The incarnation of God is the expression of His love and mercy. One has to become one body with another to truly understand him, accept him, and love him. Jesus, being God: LOVE, loves us with a perfect love; but His incarnation helps us understand, accept, and respond to His love. We must become one body with our children... and being like them, let them know our love as a reflection of the divine love. But we must also learn from them, because **“he who does not receive the Reign of God like a child, will not enter into it”** Mark 10, 15.

Maybe we’re use to seeing Jesus as an adult: as someone who gives without asking anything in return. But the liturgy of the next weeks shows us God as a child to get our attention. A newborn child requires attention day and night, never being alone because he may cry, fall, or hurt himself. One must change his diapers, feed him on time, and most importantly, give him constant human love and affection. A child requires unconditional dedication and sacrifice.

Jesus as a child calls us to be close to Him, to gaze on His innocent face – faithful reflection of the face of our Father God. Who does He look like? Like His brothers, do we look like Him?

It is Jesus’ desire that we find time for prayer, time to participate in the Eucharistic Celebration – His real presence with his people - in order to share with the children...like a mother has time to share with her newborn child.

It is Jesus’ desire that we do works of charity and be vigilant and alert, like a mother that watches over her sleeping infant.

God came to his people as a child to clearly tell us: I need you; don’t abandon me; I need your presence, sacrifice, and love.

The image of the manger in Bethlehem is the image of our families that do not have enough resources to properly provide for their children. It is an image of the children that cry of hunger, cold, or other inclemency. This is why God’s word, once again, invites us to accept Jesus in our children, in the poor, the orphans, the lonely, the sick...with all the requirements of our material and spiritual attention: **“he who receives a child in my name, receives me” Mathew 18, 5;... See that you never despise one of these little ones. I assure you, their angels in Heaven constantly behold my heavenly Father’s face.”18, 10...”as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me” Mathew 25, 40**

God’s incarnation must motivate us to be one with each other. While we feel superior and treat others as inferior, we are far from God, who in His humility and love left heaven to be equal to us. We must not forget that God lifts the humble and de-thrones the proud.

On a cold day in Bethlehem the cry of a child was heard. The cry continues to resonate in our towns, neighborhoods, and families. Do not be indifferent. Be for the children of our ministry and all the children of our towns like a star of hope. Be for them a light which shows them the path to follow, so that, upon finding Jesus, they can abandon the misery of the fog and walk in the light of Christ.

I wish for all the leaders of the groups of “Friends of Jesus and Mary” that each encounter with the children be a live encounter with Jesus. Be generous with them like the shepherds and wise men. Treat each one like Mary and Joseph treated Jesus.

I wish for all the children of our ministry that they feel the presence and love of God though our service.

God Bless You!