



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

January 2017, Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Let us begin this New Year with our hearts full of love and thanks giving for all the graces we receive last year. Let's renew our prayer in the family, Friends and prayers groups. in union with Jesus and Mary.

Important feast and Saints:

January 01 Mary, Mother of God

January 03 Epiphany of the lord

January 06 The Tree Wise Men

January 10 Baptism of the Lord

January 21 St Agnes

January 24 Saint Francis de Sales

January 27 Saint Henry de Osso

January 31 Saint John Bosco

Enclosed materials and activities:

- 1) Monthly Meditations & Calendar on the Sunday Gospel
- 2) Mary Mother of God
- 3) Activity of the Góspel of January 15
- 4) The Spiritual Works of Mercy
- 5) The Corporal Works of Mercy
- 6) Activity of the Gospel Of January 22
- 7) The Miracle of Tumaco
- 8) St Henry of Osso

On January 27 we celebrate the feast of Saint Henry de Osso patrón saints of our Ministry Friends of Jesus and Mary. We encourage you to plan special event this day.

May God bless you in this New Year,

Friends of Jesus & Mary

FLORIDA

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Florida Center for Peace

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MARY MOTHER OF GOD Num 6, 22-27 Psalm 67 Ga 4, 4-7 Luke 2, 16-21	2 1 John 2, 22-28 Psalm 97 John 1, 19-28	3 1 John 2, 29-3, 6 Psalm 97 John 1, 29-34	4 1 John 3, 7-10 Psalm 97 John 1, 35-42	5 ST JOHN NEUMANN 1 John 3, 11-21 Psalm 99 John 1, 43-51	6 FIRST FRIDAY THE 3 KINGS 1 John 5, 5-13 Psalm 147 Mark 1, 7-11	7 FIRST SATURDAY 1 John 5, 14-21 Psalm 149 John 2, 1-12
8 Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60,1-6 Psalm 71 Eph 3, 2-3,5-6 Matthew 2, 1-12	9 BAPTISM OF THE LORD Isaiah 42, 1-4.6-7 Psalm 28 Acts 10, 34-38 Matthew 3, 13-17	10 He 2, 5-12 Psalm 8 Mark 1, 21-28	11 He 2, 14-28 Psalm 104 Mark 1, 29-39	12 He 3, 7-14 Psalm 94 Mark 1,40-45	13 ST HILARY He 4, 1-5.11 Psalm 77 Mark 2, 1-12	14 ST MALACHY He 4, 12-16 Psalm 18 Mark 2, 13-17
15 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 49, 3. 5-6 Psalm 39 1Co 1, 29-34 John 1, 29-34	16 ST PRISCILLA He 5, 1-10 Psalm 109 Mark 2, 18-22	17 He 6, 10-20 Psalm 110 Mark 2, 23-28	18 He 7, 1-3.15-17 Psalm 109 Mark 3, 1-6	19 He 7, 25-8, 6 Psalm 39 Mark 3, 7-12	20 ST FABIAN & ST He 8, 6-13 Psalm 84 Mark 3, 13-19	21 ST AGNES He 9,2-3.11-14 Psalm 46 Mark 3, 20-21
22 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 3, 23-9, 3 Psalm 26 1 Cor 1, 10-13-17	23 He 9, 15. 24-28 Psalm 97 Mark 3, 22-30	24 ST FRANCIS OF SALES He 10, 1-10 Psalm 39 Mark 3, 31-35	25 THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL Acts 22, 3-16 Psalm 116 Mark 16, 15-18	26 ST TIMOTHY & TITUS 2 Ti 1. 1-8 Psalm 95 Luke 10, 1-9	27 ST. ANGELA MERICI He 10, 32-39 Psalm 36, 7 Mark 4, 26-34	28 ST THOMAS AQUINAS He 11, 1-2. 8-10 Luke 1. 69-75 Mark 4, 35-41
29 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Zep 2, 3; 3, 12-13 Psalm 145 1 Co 1, 26-31 Matthew 5, 1-12	30 He 11, 32-40 Psalm 30 Mark 5, 1-20	31 ST JOHN BOSCO He 12, 1-4 Psalm 21 Mark 5, 21-23				

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Friends of Jesus and Mary
Mary Mother of God - January 1, 2017

Readings: Numbers 6, 22-27; Psalms 66; Galatians 4, 4-7; Luke 2, 16-21

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reflection

In the readings of this week, the blessing of Aaron (Numbers 6, 22-27) becomes a prayer. In Psalm 66 we are inviting God to look at his people so that we can contemplate and celebrate salvation. The church proclaims the birth of Jesus to celebrate Mary as the mother of God. The shepherds share the Good News. Mary listens, learns and meditates all the words and keeps them in her heart. In Jesus the law is fulfilled. His parents brought him to the temple to be circumcised according to Jewish law, culture and costumes. Do you welcome Jesus and bring him with you wherever you go? Invite Mary to work with you this year. Ask her to help you in all the stages of your life that need her protection and guidance. Share.

Activity

Bring a nice picture of Mary to the group. Speak about all her qualities and virtues. Make your New Year's resolutions and try to imitate Mary in all her virtues. If we do so we will keep ourselves on the right track. God wants us to go to him when we have problems or difficulties.

Prayer

Mary, pray to your son for me. Ask him to give me courage and wisdom. To give me a heart full of love for Him, capable of following him always in the path of life. Amen.





Friends of Jesus and Mary ***Epiphany - January 8, 2017***

Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3, 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2, 1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. (Matthew 2, 1-12)

Reflection

Imagine the trip by camel through mountains, valleys and deserts. What dangers and difficulties might they have faced? Why would they continue walking in spite of everything? Would you do the same? The star guided the Magi to Jesus. Who guides you? Your parents, grandparents, teachers? How well do you listen and follow them?

Activity

Bring to the group newspapers, magazines where the children can find drawings, pictures or announcements of different things. Bring cardboard of three different colors. **Yellow=Gold** symbolizes that Jesus is King. **Light blue=Incense** for being God. **Red=Mir** for being our savior. Motivate them to choose the gifts that they would like to give Jesus. Example: something, they would like to change, a good deed, a sacrifice, share the love of Jesus, etc. Paste the gifts on the cardboard that correspond and show why. At the end, all together pray.

Prayer

Jesus, you are the light of the nations. Sometimes we lose our way because we are interested in things that lead us away from you. Teach us to recognize you're in each person of our family and in the people around us. Give us your light to seek you. Amen.





Friends of Jesus and Mary
Second Sunday Ordinary Time January 15, 2017

Readings: Isaiah 49, 3.5-6; Psalm 39; 1Cor 1, 1-3; John 1, 29-34

The Lamb of God

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.

Reflection

In the readings of this week, we see how God calls us to be with Jesus as part of his holy people, light for others and messengers of his salvation. John recognized who were the ones that came as messengers of God's good news. How do we get to recognize the people who come speaking truthful words? Jesus did not come with great speeches, nor did he show power and strength. How is that you would like for people to know you, as the strongest or as the one that has more authority? How do you recognize Jesus? Who are the people that are a reflection of him? Show to others the living Jesus Christ, in your way of loving others, doing what pleases God, by serving, by helping, by been kind and respectful to all.

Activity

Bring to your group drawings of Lambs. Ask the children to write one quality, in which they could recognize Jesus in others (kindness, service, tenderness and others). On the reverse of the page, ask them to write their commitment for the week. Afterwards, take it to the altar with the group. At the time, you present those in the altar, said: "**Jesus, we recognized you in the good surrounding us**".

Prayer

Lord, let in our voices and our words that come from the hearts of each one of us, we recognize your voice and your love. Teach us to listened one another and to recognize and celebrate the good of each one, of our prayer group Friends of Jesus and Mary, also in our friends and family. Amen.





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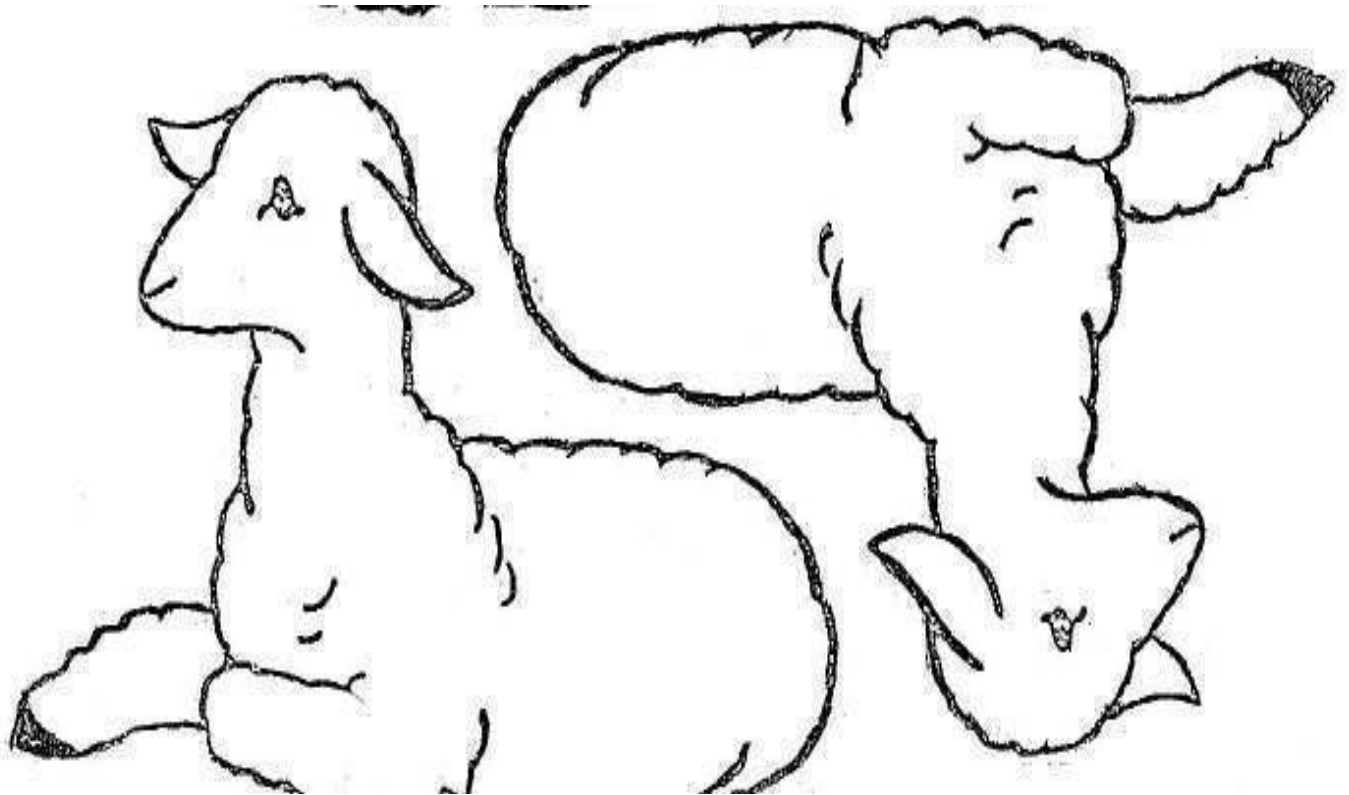
Florida Center for Peace

Second Sunday Ordinary Time January 15, 2017

Readings: Isaiah 49, 3.5-6; Psalm 39; 1Cor 1, 1-3; John 1, 29-34

The Lamb of God

ACTIVITY FOR THIS SUNDAY



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Third Sunday Ordinary Time January 22, 2017

Readings: Isaiah 8, 23b-9, 3 Psalm 26; 1Corinthians 1, 10-13.17; Matthew 4, 12-23

Jesus Begins His work in Galilee

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.* From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. (Matthew 4, 12-23)

Reflection

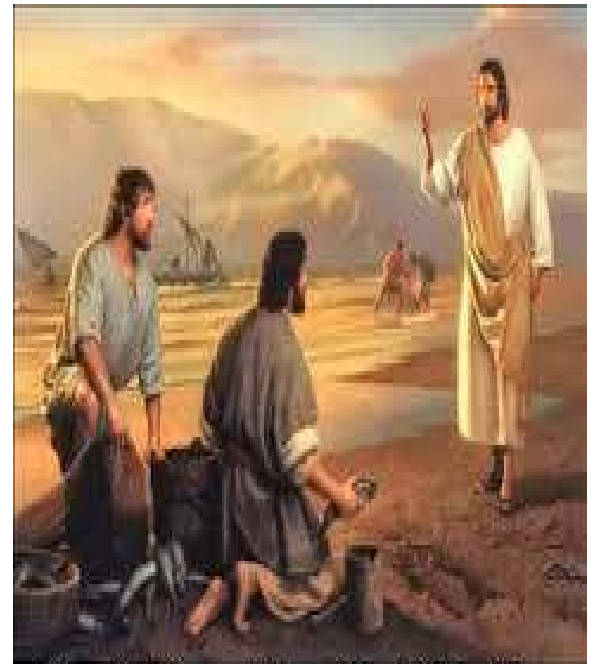
In the readings of this week, Jesus calls us, like he called his first apostles, to be fishers of people, in other words, he calls us to bring his light, comfort and liberation to others. Jesus did not invite important people, wealthy or powerful to be his friends. Have you gone fishing or do you know anyone whose profession is being a fisherman? Why do you think, those fishermen left everything behind so fast to follow Jesus? What do you think, they willingly left behind to follow him? What do think fishers of people must do? How could you be a fisher of people for Jesus, at home and in school? Let's share it together.

Activity

Draw fishes of different shapes and forms. Ask the children to paint them and ask to them to remember a name of a person that they will try to catch for Jesus (to get them close to Jesus), during the week and to place their name in the drawing. Ask them to share what all of them did and ask them to place the drawing of the fishes in the basket to place in front of the altar of the group like an offering of the weekly work.

Prayer

Lord, you called us every day, to be with you, and for us to give ourselves to others. Sometimes it is not easy, but your love and your presence within us is valuable. Give always the light of your hope for us to continue living, regardless of the difficulties and battles within this life. Amen.



The Calling of the First Disciples
Matthew 4:12-23



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time January 29, 2017

Readings: Zephaniah 2, 3; 3, 12-13 Psalm 145, 1; Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5: 1-12

The Sermon on the Mount

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Reflection

In the readings of this week, we observe how God has chosen the poor of spirit, and not important people, to do his great deeds and Glorify God. Jesus gives the good news, to those who suffer, to those who cry, because everything will be given to them. Jesus is the friend, most especially, of those who have not many things and of those who suffer. Who do you want to be friends of? Let's share it together.

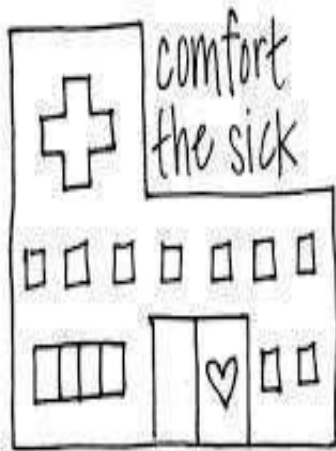
Activity

Show to the children images of the works of mercy, corporal and spiritually. Encourage the children to pray for the ones that are in difficult situations. Share and explain to them why Jesus prefers the neediest.

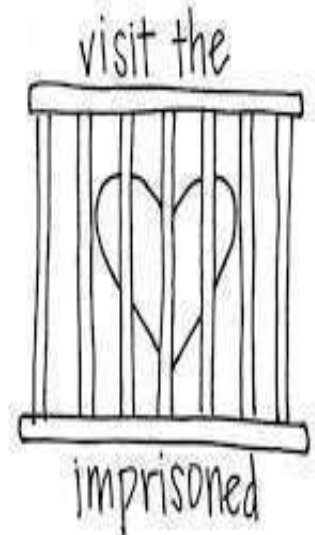
Prayer

Lord, sometimes we give more importance to what is going to finish soon, instead of to the ones that live with us and depend on us totally. Give us thirst of him, justice and peace. Make us merciful like you are merciful. Amen.





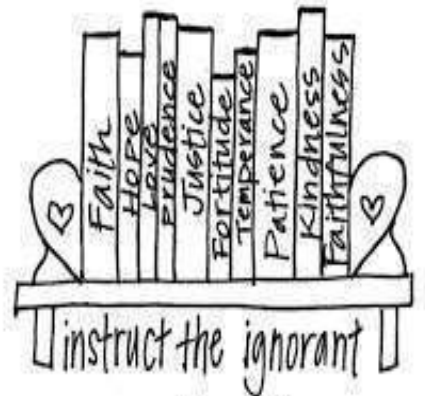
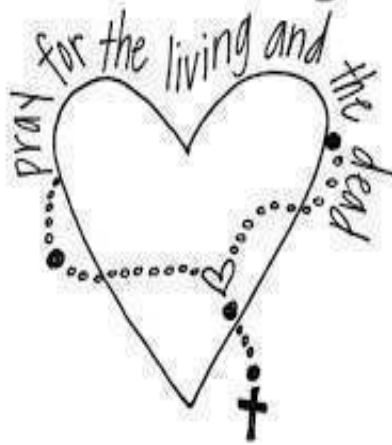
The Corporal Works of Mercy





admonish the sinner

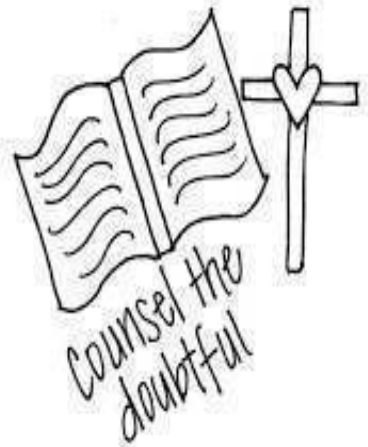
The Spiritual Works of Mercy



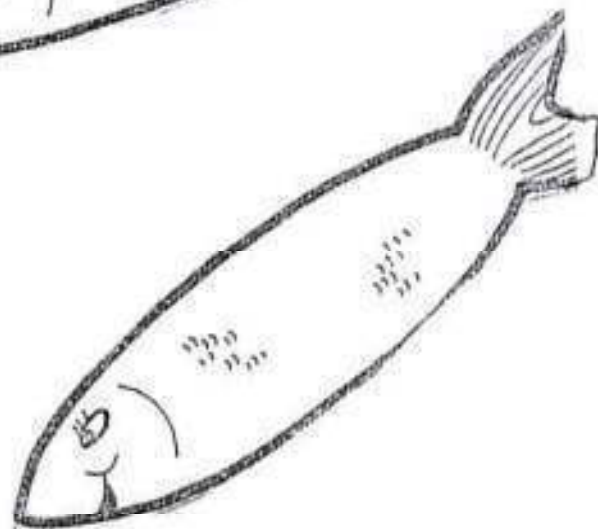
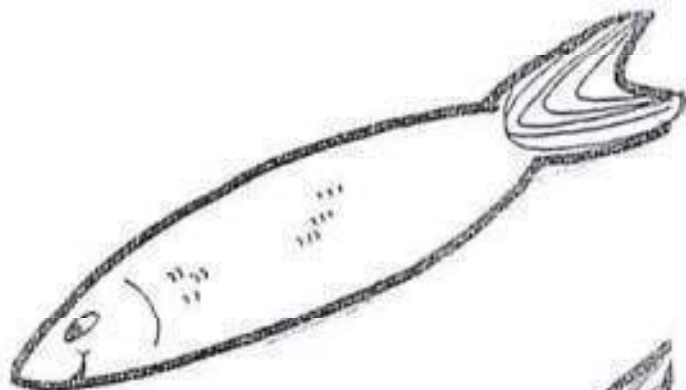
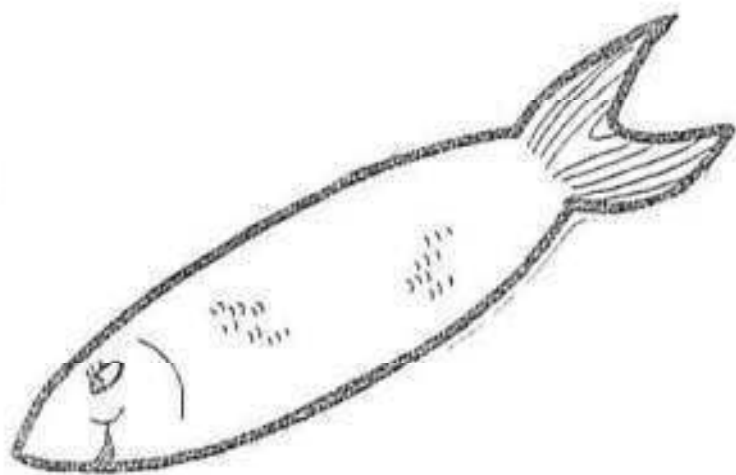
instruct the ignorant



comfort the sorrowful



counsel the doubtful



Reflection

The Lord asks us to be available for the mission, even if it is difficult. We need to change our bad courses of action to follow Jesus. What difficulties do they encounter to follow Jesus and do well? What talents do they have for good? How are you going to use them this week?





Tsunami!

On January 31, 1906, one of the worst earthquakes in history rocked the earth. Its epicenter was in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Ecuador.

The quake hit the small Island of Tumaco. The frightened inhabitants ran out of their houses and saw that the earthquake had caused a tsunami. It was a giant wave, capable of swallowing up the entire island.

Their only hope!

The entire island set off running towards the Church. Fr. Larrondo went out to calm them down, but when they saw him they rushed towards him with renewed hope. Without hesitating, he went and got the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament* and told the people, "Come, my children, let us go out to the beach and may God have mercy on us."

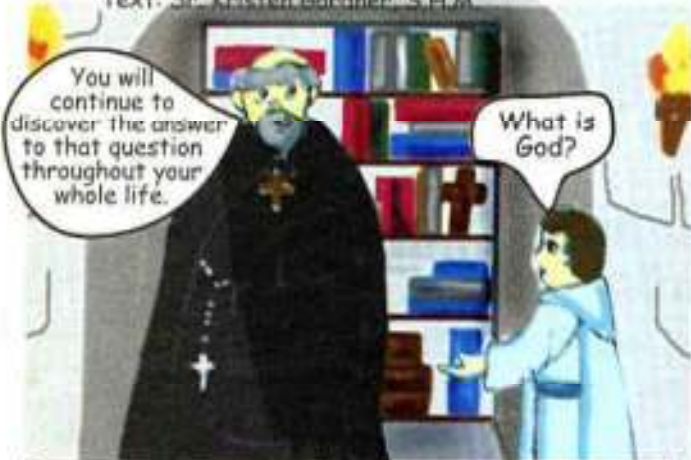
Long live Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

They went in procession out to the beach. Father Larrondo raised the Blessed Sacrament, making the sign of the cross with it. Everyone was silent. All of a sudden, the wave stopped in its tracks and went back out from the shore, growing smaller and smaller until it disappeared entirely. The people started thanking God with tears of joy and shouting, "It's a miracle! It's a miracle!". All over the world, people heard about how Tumaco had been saved thanks to Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist.

***Blessed Sacrament:** a name we give to Jesus present in the Eucharist

St. Thomas Aquinas

Drawings: Mary Bohler.
Text: Sr. Kristen Gardner, S.H.M.



You will continue to discover the answer to that question throughout your whole life.

What is God?

St. Thomas Aquinas was born at the end of the 13th century. At five years of age, he was sent to live and study with Benedictine monks. He was always asking questions.



You know that your family will not accept it if you join our holy order, right?

He was sent to the university of Naples. There he met the Dominicans and knew that God was calling him to join them.

Yes, Father, but it is God's will.



Thomas' family was furious when they found out what he had done.

The Dominicans actually beg for their food. It is a disgrace to our family name!

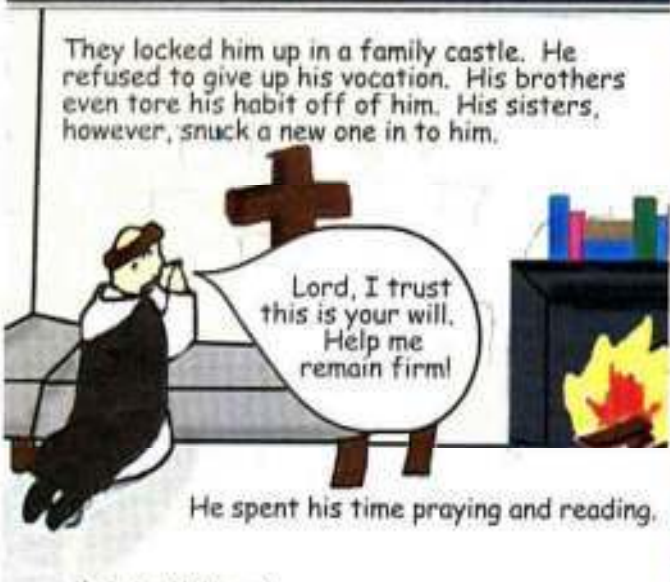
I know, my son, we must fetch him back!



Thomas' superiors decided to send him to Paris, where he would be safer. The Countess of Aquinas sent her two oldest sons to capture him.

There he is! Let's get him!

God, protect me.



They locked him up in a family castle. He refused to give up his vocation. His brothers even tore his habit off of him. His sisters, however, snuck a new one in to him.

Lord, I trust this is your will. Help me remain firm!

He spent his time praying and reading.



Thomas' sisters knew that God wanted him to be a Dominican. They came up with a plan of escape.

My time of trial has come to an end! I may now continue serving Our Lord as a Dominican.

Back with his fellow brothers, Thomas was sent to study under Albert the Great. Everyone thought that he was stupid because he never said anything in class.

Dumb ox!
I bet he can't even write his own name!

In reality, he kept silent in order to remain humble.

However, St. Albert recognized Thomas' God-given intelligence.

You call him the dumb-ox! I tell you, one day, his bellowing will resound throughout the whole world!

St. Thomas wrote many books about the Faith. One of the most famous is the Summa Theologica. He is called the Angelic Doctor because of all that he wrote for the Church.

Thomas was soon ordained a priest. He had a great devotion to the Eucharist. The Pope asked him to write hymns for the feast of Corpus Christi and he did so, composing "Pange Lingua," "Tantum ergo" and many others.

My Lord and my God!

Soon afterwards, St. Thomas died. He was about 50 years old. This had been his only desire for the last years of his life.

Thomas, you have written well of me. What do you want?

Towards the end of his life, Jesus appeared to him and showed him the secrets of heaven. Afterwards, he had no desire to write anything else. He said that all he had written was like straw compared to what he had seen.

Only You, Lord!

Finally, Lord! I'll be with you forever!