



Friends of Jesus and Mary  
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

July 2009  
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

July and August, are the summer vacation months what better opportunity to take our children out to have fun, while they learn about all the things God, the Father, created for us, by love. Emphasize the importance of prayer.

**Enclosed you will find some feasts and saints of this month:**

July 01	Blessed Junipero Serra	August 4	St. John Vianney
July 03	Saint Thomas	August 6	The Transfiguration
July 04	Independence Day	August 12	Saint Claire
July 14	St. Katerina Tekakwitha	August 15	The Assumption
July 16	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	August 22	Mary Our Queen
July 25	St. James Apostle	August 23	St. Rose of Lima
July 26	St. Joachim and Anne	August 27	St. Monica
July 29	St. Martha	August 28	St. Augustine
July 31	St. Ignatius Loyola	August 31	Leaders's Workshop

**Enclosed Materials:**

July and August Calendar  
Gospel for the month of July & August  
Story St. Brigid of Swede

**Los videos recomendados son:** (todos se encuentran en el video club)

1. Creation (SHC)
2. The Good Samaritan
3. Prayer (SHC)
4. Adam and Eve
5. Mary Magdalene

**Our next meeting will be August 31 at St. Agatha Church. 7:30 pm please come and share with us. Have a nice summer!**

May God Bless You Always,

Friends of Jesus and Mary



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Florida Center for Peace

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# July 2009

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

			<b>1</b>  Gn 21,5,8-20 Psalm 33 Mt 8,28-34	<b>2</b>  Gn 22,5,1-19 Psalm 114 Mt 9,1-8	<b>3</b> First Friday St. Thomas (Apostle)  Eph 2,19-22 Psalm 116 Jn 20,24-29	<b>4</b> First Saturday St. Elizabeth of Portugal <i>Independency Day</i>  Gn 27,1-5,15-29 Psalm 134 Mt 9,14-17
<b>5</b> XIV Sunday in Ordinary Time  Ez 2,2-5 Psalm 122 2Co 12,7-10 Mk 6,1-6	<b>6</b>  Gn 28,10-22a Psalm 90 Mt 9,18-26	<b>7</b>  Gn 32,23-33 Psalm 16 Mt 9,32-38	<b>8</b>  Gn 41,55-57;42,5-7a,17-24 Psalm 32 Mt 10,1-7	<b>9</b> St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions  Eph 1,3-6,11-12 Psalm 112 Lc 11,27-28	<b>10</b>  Gn 46,1-7,28-30 Psalm 36 Mt 10,16-23	<b>11</b> St. Benedict  Gn 49,29-32;50,15-24 Psalm 104 Mt 10,24-33
<b>12</b> XV Sunday in Ordinary Time  Am 7,12-15 Psalm 84 Eph 1,3-14 Mk 6,7-13	<b>13</b>  Ex 1,8-14,22 Psalm 123 Mt 10,34-11,1	<b>14</b> Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha (Patron of World)  Ex 2,1-15a Psalm 68 Mt 11,20-24	<b>15</b> St. Bonaventure  Ex 3,1-6,9-12 Psalm 102 Mt 11,25—27	<b>16</b> Our Lady of Mount Carmel  Za 2,14-17 Psalm:LC 1,46-55 Mt 12,46-50	<b>17</b>  Ex 11,10-12,14 Psalm 115 Mt 12,1-8	<b>18</b> St. Camillus de Lellis  Ex 12,37-42 Psalm 135 Mt 12,14-21
<b>19</b> XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time  Jr 23,1-6 Psalm 22 Eph 2,13-18 Mk 6,30-34	<b>20</b>  Ex 14,5-18 Psalm 15 Mt 12,38-42	<b>21</b> St. Lawrence of Brindisi  Ex 14,21-15,1 Ex 15,8-10,12,17 Mt 12,46-50	<b>22</b> St. Mary Magdalene  Sgs 3,1-4a 2Co 5,14-17 Psalm 62 Jn 20,1-2,11-18	<b>23</b> St. Bridget of Sweden  Ex 19,1-2,9-11,16-20 Psalm:Dn 3,52-56 Mt 13,10-17	<b>24</b> St. Sharbel Makhlof  Ex 20,1-17 Psalm 18 Mt 13,18-23	<b>25</b> St. James Apostle  2Co 4,7-15 Psalm 125 Mt 20,20-28
<b>26</b> XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time  2R 4,42-44 Psalm 145 Eph 4,1-6 Jn 6,1-15	<b>27</b>  Ex 32,15-24,30-34 Psalm 105 Mt 13,31-35	<b>28</b>  Ex 33,7-11:34,5b-9,28 Psalm 102 Mt 13,36-43	<b>29</b> St Martha  1Jn 4,7-16 Psalm 33 Jn 11,19,27 o Lc 10,38-42	<b>30</b> St Peter Crysologus  Ex 40, 16*-21,34-38 Psalm 83 Mt 13,47-53	<b>31</b> St Ignatius Loyola  Lv 23,1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37 Psalm 80 Mt 13,54-58	



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# August 2009

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

						<b>1</b> <b>First Saturday</b> <b>St. Alphonsus Liguori</b>  Lv 25, 1,8-17 Psalm 66 Mt 14,1-12
<b>2</b> <b>XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  Ex 16,2-4,12-15 Psalm 77 Eph 4,17,20-24 Jn 6,24-35	<b>3</b>  Nm 11,4b-15 Psalm 80 Mt 14,13-21	<b>4</b> <b>St. John Mary Vianney</b>  Nm 12,1-13 Psalm 50 Mt 14,22-36	<b>5</b> <b>Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Roma</b>  13,1-3a,25-14,1,26-30,34-35 Psalm 105 Mt 15,21-28	<b>6</b> <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b>  Dn 7,9-10,13-14 Psalm 96 2P 1,16-19 Mk 9,2-10	<b>7</b>  Dt 4,32-40 Psalm 76 Mt 16,24-28	<b>8</b>  Dt 6,4-13 Psalm 17 Mt 17,14-20
<b>9</b> <b>XIX Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  1 K 19,4-8 Psalm 33 Eph 4,30-5,2 Jn 6,41-51	<b>10</b>  2Co 9,6-10 Psalm 111 Jn 12,24-26	<b>11</b> <b>St Clare</b>  Dt 31,1-8 Psalm,Dt 32,3-4a,7-9,12 Mt 18,1-5,10,12-14	<b>12</b>  Dt 34,1-12 Psalm 65 Mt 18,15-20	<b>13</b> <b>SS Pontian &amp; Hippolytus</b>  Jos 3,7-10a,11,13-17 Psalm 113a Mt 18,21-19,1	<b>14</b> <b>St Maximilian Mary Kolbe</b>  Jos 24,1-13 Psalm 135 Mt 19,3-12	<b>15</b> <b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>  Rev 11,19a,12,1-6a,10ab Psalm 44 1Co 15,20-27 Lc 1,39-56
<b>16</b> <b>XX Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  Pr 9,1-6 Psalm 33 Eph 5,15-20 Jn 6,51-58	<b>17</b>  Jg 2,11-19 Psalm 105 Mt 19,16-22	<b>18</b>  Jg 6,11-24a Psalm 84 Mt 19,23-30	<b>19</b> <b>St. John Eudes</b>  Jg 9,6-15 Psalm 20 Mt 20,1-16a	<b>20</b> <b>Sr. Bernard</b>  Jg 11,2-39a Psalm 39 Mt 22,1-14	<b>21</b> <b>St. Pius X</b>  Ru 1,1,3-6,14b-16,22 Psalm 145 Mt 22,34-40	<b>22</b>  Ru. 2,1-3,8-11;4,13-17 Psalm 127 Mt 23,1-12
<b>23</b> <b>XXI Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  Js 24,1-2a,15-18b Psalm 33 Eph 5,21-32 Jn 6,60-69	<b>24</b>  Rev 21,9-14 Psalm 144 Jn1,45-51	<b>25</b> <b>St. Louis of France</b> <b>St. Joseph Calasanz</b> <i>Patron of Schoolchildren</i>  1Ts 2,1-8 Psalm 138 Mt 23,23-26	<b>26</b> <b>St. Therese of Jesus</b>  1Ts 2,9-13 Psalm 138 Mt 23,27-32	<b>27</b> <b>St Monica</b>  1Ts 3,7-13 Psalm 89 Mt 24,42-51	<b>28</b> <b>St. Augustine</b>  1Ts 4,1-8 Psalm 96 Mt 25,1-13	<b>29</b> <b>Martyrdom of St John the Baptist</b>  Jr 1,17-19 Psalm 70 Mk 6,17-29
<b>30</b> <b>XXII Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  Dt 4,1-2,6-8 Psalm 14 St 1,17-18,21b,22-27 Mk 7, 1-8,14-15,21-23	<b>31</b>  1Ts 4,13-18 Psalm 95 Lc 4,16-30					



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

*XIV Sunday of Ordinary Time July 5, 2009*

*Readings: Ezekiel 2, 2-5; Psalm 122; 2Co 12, 7-10; Mark 6, 1-6*

*Jesús is rejected at Nazareth*

*Jesus left that place and went back to his hometown, followed by his disciples. On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue. Many people were there; and when they heard him, they were all amazed. "Where did he get all this?" they asked. "What wisdom is this that has been given him? How does he perform miracles? Isn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters living here?" And so they rejected him. Jesus said to them, "Prophets are respected everywhere except in their own hometown and by their relatives and their family." He was not able to perform any miracles there, except that he placed his hands on a few sick people and healed them. He was greatly surprised, because the people did not have faith. Then Jesus went to the villages around there, teaching the people. (Mark 6, 1-6)*

## Reflection

In the readings of this week we see how Jesus' neighbors don't want to listen to him because they feel he has nothing new to tell them. Sometimes people who are in ministry feel that no one is listening to them.

God gives them the strength to go on.

Share with the children.

To whom do they listen? Who are some of the people who they think of as important? Why? To whom do they reject? Do you sometimes feel as if people don't listen to you just because you are a child? Can you rejoice when your younger siblings do things well?

## Activity

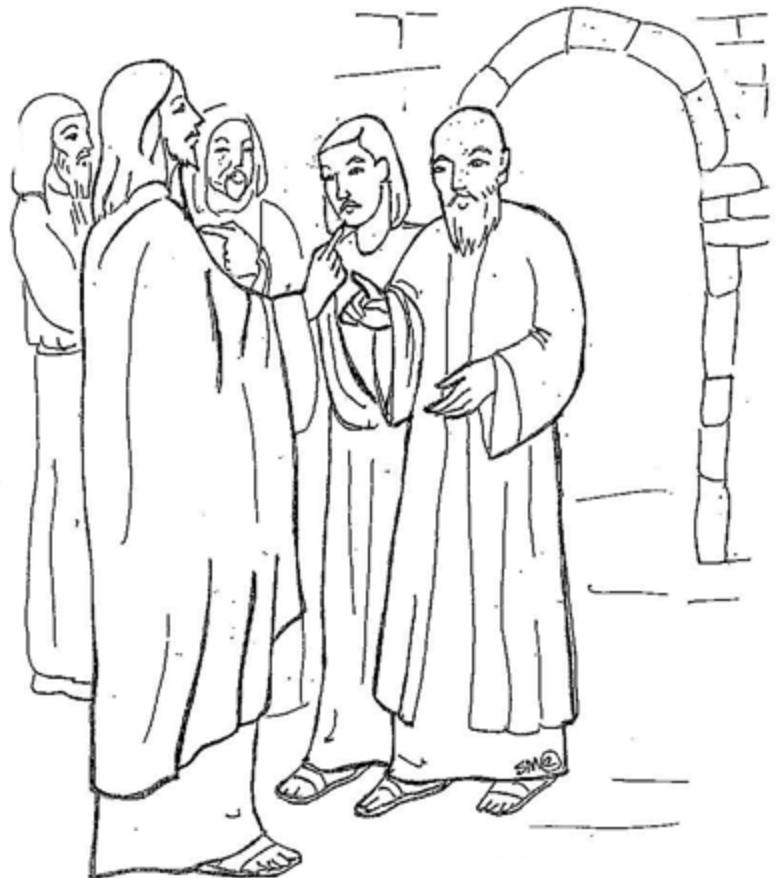
Bring one index card for each child.

Ask each child to write a message from Jesus to another child. For example Jesus wants you to ..... After all can share

## Prayer

Lord, we always want to listen to you.

Help us to find the time to listen and to speak to one another. Help us to discover you in the humble blessing of our daily lives. Amen.





# *Friends of Jesus and Mary*

## *XV Sunday in Ordinary Time July 12, 2009*

*Readings: Amos 7, 12-15; Psalm 84; Ephesians 1, 3-14; Mark 6, 7-13*

### *Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Disciples*

*He called the twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two. He gave them authority over the evil spirits and ordered them, "Don't take anything with you on the trip except a walking stick no bread, no beggar's bag, no money in your pockets.*

*Wear sandals, but don't carry an extra shirt." He also told them, "Wherever you are welcomed, stay in the same house until you leave that place. If you come to a town where people do not welcome you or will not listen to you, leave it and shake the dust off your feet. That will be a warning to them!"*

*So they went out and preached that people should turn away from their sins.*

*They drove out many demons, and rubbed olive oil on many sick people and healed them.*

*(Mark 6, 7-13)*

### **Reflection**

In the gospel of this Sunday Jesus tell his disciples to go out two by two to take the message of love Upon their return they shared both their success and failures. In the time of Jesus, in the Middle East, refusing to give hospitality was considered a serious breach of honor.

Do they like to work as a team?

Why is it good to work as a team?

Do you prefer to do things by yourself?

What do you tell Jesus? What kinds of things you cannot do by yourself?

Share why is it better to work as a team.



### **Activity**

Ask the children to pick up a partner. Together they choose some one they will help. It can be a sick person, a classmate that needs help with his studies ,someone that is lonely, etc. In a flash card write the name of the person you are going to help and plan what you are going to do for him. Pray together to Jesus and ask the light of the Holy Spirit for your work. Write in the card what came well and what they were not able to do. Share with the group the following week.

### **Prayer**

Lord, we know you walk with us in our journey. Help us to walk with one another, constantly supporting and encouraging one another. Teach us how to work as a team and to do what You ask us. Amen



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time July 19, 2009

*Readings: Jeremiah 23, 1-6; Psalm 22; Ephesians 2, 13-18; Mark 6, 30-34*

*The apostles returned and met with Jesus, and told him all they had done and taught. There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his disciples didn't even have time to eat. So he said to them, "Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest a while." So they started out in a boat by themselves to a lonely place. Many people, however, saw them leave and knew at once who they were; so they went from all the towns and ran ahead by land and arrived at the place ahead of Jesus and his disciples. When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw this large crowd, and his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things. (Mark 6, 30-34)*

## Reflection

In the readings of this week God promises to gather together those who were scattered and separated. God fulfills this promise through Christ. Jesus wants his disciples to make time for rest and prayer.

Have they separated themselves from someone they loved because of a quarrel? How did that make them feel?

Jesus wants his friends to have some time to rest. He wants to spend time with them. Do you spend some time each day talking to Jesus?

Do you sometimes help at home even if you feel like doing something else?

## Activity

Bring a poster of the Good Shepherd to the group. On top with removable, place blocks, representing the bricks of a wall. In each one write something that will cause division, such as selfishness, disobedience, lies, fights, etc. As the children pick up and tear down the bricks, they should express their commitment for the week. All answer, "Jesus unites us in your love." When all the bricks are removed, the figure of Jesus will appear.

## Prayer

Lord, we are hurt when we distance ourselves from each other. Help us to see how we can be good shepherds to one another with good examples and words of encouragement. Amen





# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 26, 2009

Readings: 2 Kings 4, 42-44; Psalm 145; Ephesians 4, 1-6; John 6, 1-15

### Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberias, as it is also called). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen his miracles of healing the sick. Jesus went up a hill and sat down with his disciples. The time for the Passover Festival was near. Jesus looked around and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?" (He said this to test Phillip; actually he already knew what he would do.) Phillip answered, "For everyone to have even a little, it would take more than two hundred silver coins to buy enough bread." Another one of his disciples, Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish, but they will certainly not be enough for all these people." "Make the people sit down," Jesus told them. (There was a lot of grass there.) So all the people sat down; there were about five thousand men. Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people who were sitting there.

He did the same with the fish, and they all had as much as they wanted. When they were all full, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces left over; let us not waste a bit." So they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten. Seeing this miracle that Jesus had performed, the people there said, "Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world!" Jesus knew that they were about to come and seize him in order to make him king by force; so he went off again to the hills by himself. (John 6, 1-15)

## Reflection

In the Old Testament, when God asked prophets to feed the people, God provided the food.

Through the Eucharist, we were called to unity. God asks us to be humble, gentle, and patient.

This best bread we can give one another.

The most Christian act is sharing food.

When we share what we have and what we are,

God multiplies it for the good of all.

Jesus has the power to multiply food. But he needs the generosity of people. Do you dare to share what you have, like the young boy in the story?

When you share with others and everyone is satisfied, do you feel happier?



## Activity

Act the gospel story of this Sunday. You can use the script that appears in the next page. You can use the cookies that are in the form of fish.

## Prayer

Lord, give us the generosity to share the best we have to give, so our family and friends will be rich with the gifts and talents that you have given each one of us.

Amen

## THE MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES AND FISHES Mark 6. 30:46

Narrator: Jesus and his apostles went off in a boat towards the territory of territory of Bethsaida, to a desert place to rest for a day: They were always so busy that they did not even have time to eat.  
People saw them leaving and found out where they were heading to, and followed them on foot round the lake. Jesus was talking to Andrew and James.

Andrew: It is now getting late, Master, shall we dismiss the people, so they could buy something to eat in town?

Jesus: No! You give them something to eat.

Narrator: To what James reply.

James : There is a boy who has five barley loaves and a couple of dry fish!!!  
Narrator: Surprised, Andrew reply ...

Andrew: But what good is this for so many?

Narrator: Jesus looked at Andrew and James and said ...

Jesus: Bring the boy and the loaves and the fish to me and get the people to recline.

Narrator: The people gathered in groups. Then Jesus took the loaves in his hands, looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God and said:

Jesus: Pass these bread among the crowd.

Narrator: Then Jesus took the fish in his hands looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God and said:

Jesus: Pass these fish among the crowd.

Narrator: Some five thousand men plus women and children ate bread and fish to their satisfaction.

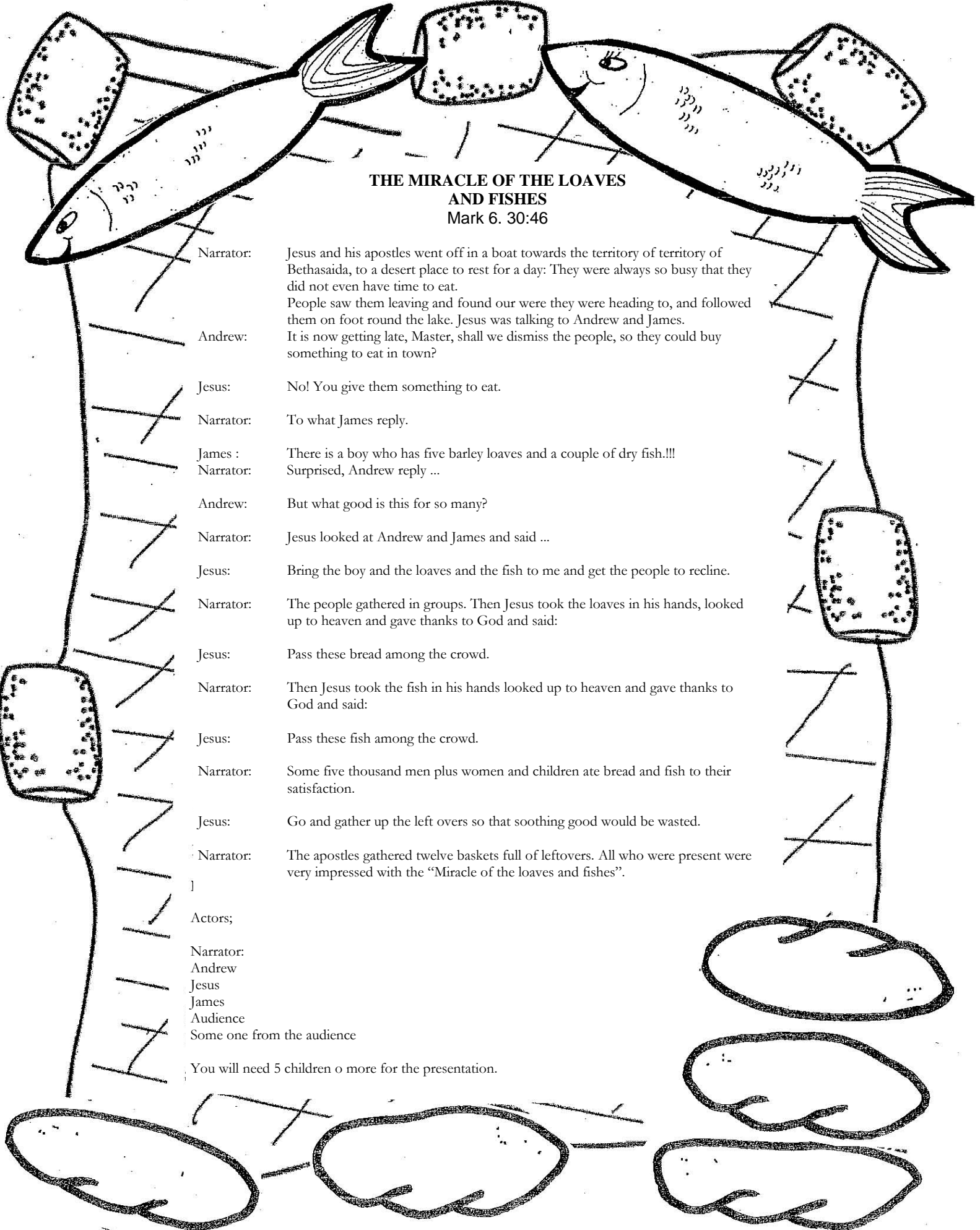
Jesus: Go and gather up the left overs so that soothing good would be wasted.

Narrator: The apostles gathered twelve baskets full of leftovers. All who were present were very impressed with the "Miracle of the loaves and fishes".

Actors;

Narrator:  
Andrew  
Jesus  
James  
Audience  
Some one from the audience

You will need 5 children o more for the presentation.







# Friends of Jesus and Mary

XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time August 2, 2009

Readings: Exodus 16, 2-4.12-15; Psalm 77; Ephesians 4, 17.20-24;  
John 6, 24-35

When the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they got into those boats and went to Capernaum, looking for him. When the people found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him, "Teacher, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: you are looking for me because you ate the bread and had all you wanted not because you understood my miracles. Do not work for food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you because God, the Father, has put his mark of approval on him." So they asked him, "What can we do in order to do what God wants us to do?" Jesus answered. "What God wants you to do is to believe in the one he sent." They replied, "What miracle will you perform so that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, just as the scripture says; He gave them bread from heaven to eat." "I am telling you the truth," Jesus said. "What Moses gave you was not the bread from heaven; it is my Father who gives you the real bread from heaven. For the bread that God gives is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they asked him, "gives us this bread always." "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty.

(John 6, 24-35)

## Reflection

In the readings for this week we can see how God sent bread to feed the Israelites in the desert.

Jesus reminds us that this new manna, his own body and blood gives everlasting life. What kinds of things give them life and joy? What gives them more joy gifts and food, or true friendships and being with Jesus? Jesus says that being with him gives much more than all things in this world. Do you go to Jesus with confidence?

Jesus says that his body and blood give a life that does not end, despite death in this world. When you pray speak to Jesus as you will to your best friend. Let us try this week to have Jesus as our best friend.

## Activity

Bring to the class some flash cards. Give one to each child and ask them to write their desires and commitments for the week. Encourage them to pick up a special time of the day to talk to Jesus. Remember that Jesus is the bread that gives us life. Pick some one with whom they are going to pray this week.

## Prayer

Lord, sometimes the things we desire are not the same you wish for us. Give us hunger for you, firmly believing that it is your bread and your presence among us that gives us true life and joy. Amen



TRANSFIGURATION  
OF THE LORD

AUGUST 06



Dt 7, 9-10.13-14  
Psalm 96  
2P 1, 16-19  
Mk 9, 2-10



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## XIX Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9, 2009

Readings: 1Kings 19, 4-8; Psalm 33; Ephesians 4, 30-5, 2; John 6, 41-51

*The people started grumbling about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." So they said, "This man is Jesus son of Joseph, isn't he? We know his father and mother. How, then, does he now say he came down from heaven?" Jesus answered, "Stop grumbling among yourselves. People cannot come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me; and I will raise them to life on the last day. The prophets wrote. Everyone will be taught by God. Anyone who hears the Father and learns from him comes to me. This does not mean that anyone has seen the Father; he who is from God is the only one who has seen the Father. I am telling you the truth: He who believes has eternal life; I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died. But the bread that comes down from heaven is of such a kind that whoever eats it will not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If you eat this bread, you will live forever. The bread that I will give you is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live." (John 6, 41-51)*

### Reflection

Share with the children the story of Elijah, in the first reading. How do they feel when they are unable to do something they want?

Are they discouraged when they are not chosen for a sport's team? What can make them feel better? In our discouragement and tiredness, we invited to eat the Bread of heaven in order to gain strength and go on.

The way to God must be free of bitterness, insults, and forgiveness. In that way, we become bread and strength for others. Jesus becomes one with us, he shares himself with us. We must be like wise.

### Activity

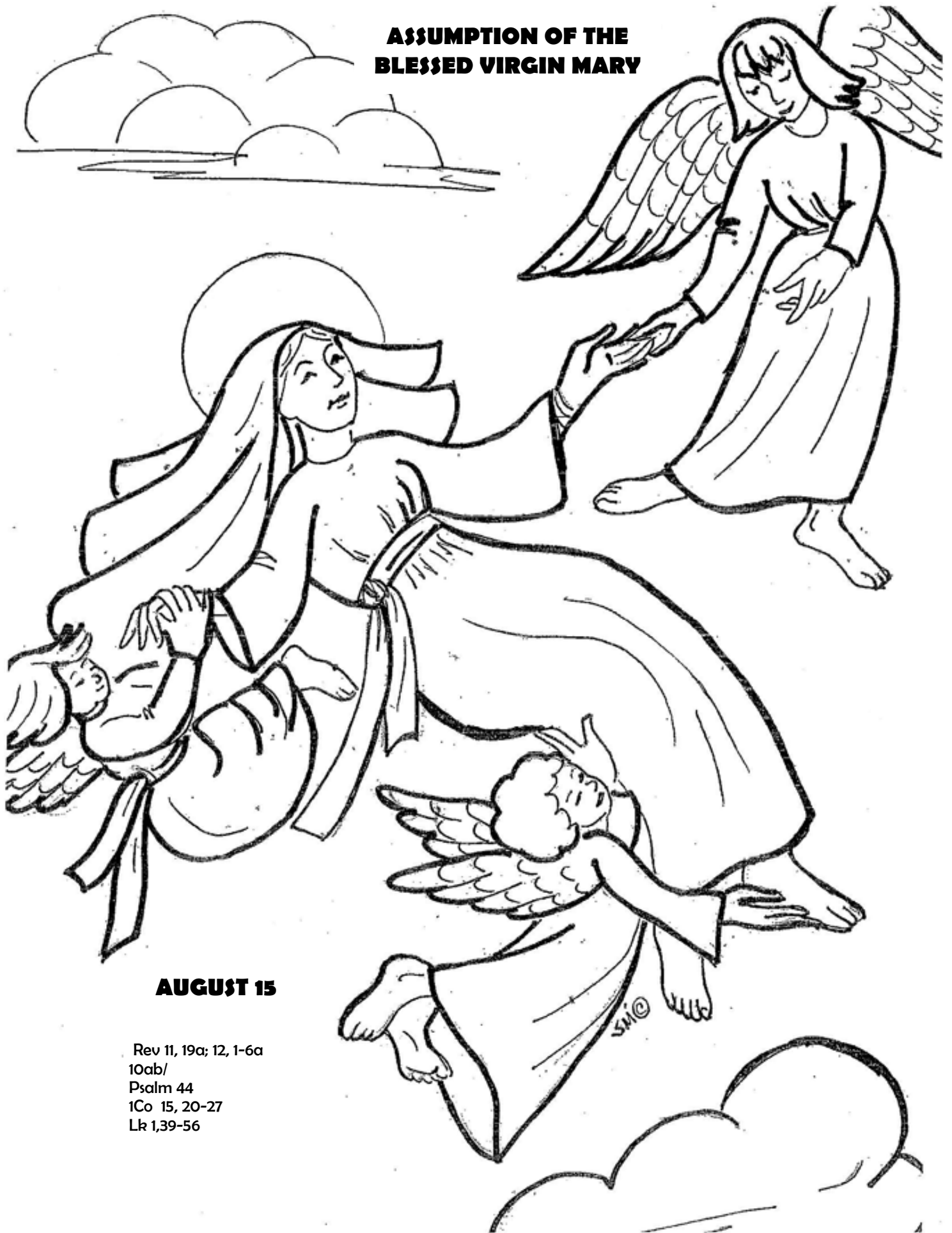
Hand out to each child a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to divide the paper in two. In one side write things that give them strength, courage and happiness. In the other side write things that give them sadness, anger, and discouragement. Each one makes a commitment for the week that will bring them to the road of happiness. Give sufficient time for them to write. Share what they wrote.

### Prayer

Stay with us, Jesus, when we feel weak. Help us To get rid of any bitterness and bad temper; which only cause discouragement. May our words of mutual encouragement be nourished from your bread and become bread for our journeys to come. Amen



**ASSUMPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



**AUGUST 15**

Rev 11, 19a; 12, 1-6a  
10ab/  
Psalm 44  
1Co 15, 20-27  
Lk 1,39-56



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## XX Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16, 2009

Readings: Proverbs 9, 1-6; Psalm 33; Ephesians 5, 15-20; John 6, 51-58

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If you eat this bread, you will live forever. The bread that I will give you is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live. This started an angry argument among them. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked. Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them to life on the last day. For my flesh is the real food; my blood is the real drink.*

*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them.*

*The living father sent me, and because of him I live also. In the same way whoever eats me will live because of me. This, then, is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the bread that your ancestors ate, but then later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever." (John 6, 51-58)*

### Reflection

When we share a meal and the Eucharist, we gain strength to face problems together. Do their families usually eat together?

Do they eat out at fast food restaurants a lot of the time?

Do they like eating with their families?

What does it mean when someone tells you, "If you don't eat, you'll waste away?"

What would happen to your life if you didn't have Jesus? If you never share with him?

### Activity

On the next page you will find an activity, that shows the different articles use at the church to share the Eucharist and also in a family dinner. It can be a game asking the children to guess what is use in the different celebrations. Remember all the times Jesus share a meal with his friends.

### Prayer

Lord, sit down with us when we gather to eat as a family and to share our joys and pains of the day. May we celebrate your presence and be grateful for the gift of your nourishment which gives us strength each day. Amen



# Celebrations Are For Sharing

Some things we use for our celebrations at home we also use for our celebrations at church. Find the pictures that belong in the home and the ones that belong in the church. Glue them in place. We have already done one for you!



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## XXI Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23, 2009

Readings: Joshua 24, 1-2a.15-18b; Psalm 33; Ephesians 5, 21-32; John 6, 60-69

### *The Words of Eternal Life*

Many of his followers heard this and said, "This teaching is too hard. Who can listen to it?" Without being told, Jesus knew that they were grumbling about this, so he said to them, "Does this make you want to give up? Suppose, then, that you should see the Son of Man go back up to the place where he was before? What gives life is God's Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's Life-giving Spirit. Yet some of you do not believe." (Jesus knew from the very beginning who were the ones that would not believe and which one would betray him.)

And he added, "This is the very reason I told you that no people can come to me unless the Father makes it possible for them to do so." Because of this, many of Jesus' followers turned back and would not go with him any more. So he asked the twelve disciples, "And you, would you also like to live?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom we would go? You have the words that give eternal life. And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God." (John 6, 60-69)

### Reflection

The example of respect and love in today's readings is the model of the relationship between Christ and his church. The family is the domestic church that should model that love. We like the Israelites and Jesus' followers have the option to either serve and do God's will or to abandon the Lord and follow other gods such as power or money. What does having options mean? What is their experience in making decisions? What would they have to leave behind if they chose to follow Jesus? Have any of your friends ever left you? How did that make you feel? Does Jesus' life mean that Christians will live on this earth forever? What does he mean by "life that doesn't end?"

### Activity

Prepare a big poster with two roads. Prepare cards with actions that lead us to Jesus, (share, said the truth, obey, study, pray) and others that not (fighting, disobedience, lies, selfishness) Place them on a small box or basket. In the next page you will find a model. One by one they pick the cards. Ask them to place the card on the correct road and explain why each card does or does not lead to Jesus.

### Prayer

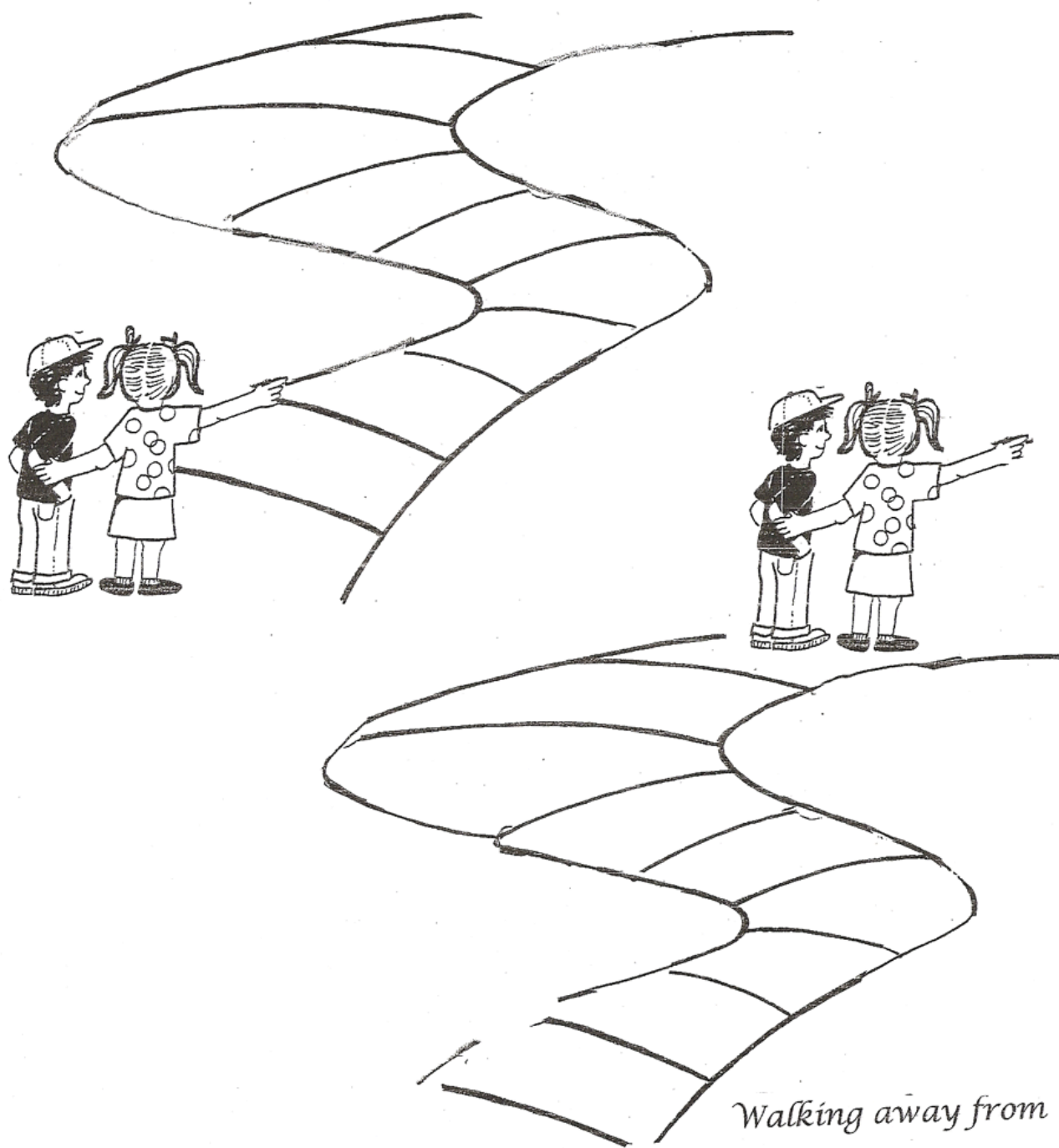
Lord you ask us to make a serious decision to serve and love you above all other things. Give us your light so that we may remember that only you give us true life. May our actions always express, the love and respect you have for your church. Amen



ACTIVITY  
AUGUST 23

*Walking towards to*

**GOD**



*Walking away from*

**GOD**





# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## XXII Sunday in Ordinary Time; August 30, 2009

Readings: *Dt. 4, 1-2.6-8; Psalm 14; James 1, 17-18. 216-22. 27; Mark 7, 1-8. 14-15.21-23*

Some Pharisees and teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their food with hands that were ritually unclean that is, they had not washed them in the way the Pharisees said people should. (For the Pharisees, as well as the rest of the Jews, follow the teaching they received from their ancestors: they do not eat unless they wash their hands in the proper way; nor do they eat anything that comes from the market unless they wash it first, And they follow many other rules which they have received, such as the proper way to wash cups, pots, cooper bowls, and beds.) So the Pharisees and the teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why is it that your disciples do not follow the teaching handed down by our ancestors, but instead eat with ritually unclean hands?" Jesus answered them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: 'These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!' "You put aside God's command and obey human teachings." Then Jesus called the crowd to him once more and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. There is nothing that goes into you from the outside which can make you ritually unclean. Rather, it is what comes out of you that makes you unclean." For from the inside, from your heart, come evil ideas which lead you to do immoral things, to rob, kill, commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly -All these evil things come from inside you and make you unclean." (Mark 7, 1-8.14-15.21-23)

### Reflection

God provides laws that are for everyone's protection and the common good.

Sometimes we are drawn to appearances rather than to the goodness of the heart. To end evil in the world, creating laws isn't enough. We need to change others and our own hearts.

Laws and regulations are important. For instance, What are traffic lights for? Why do we have rules in the classroom and in our homes? Do they ever break rules? When they play, do they make sure that rules are followed?

What is more important to appear to be good or to really be good?

### Activity

Review the Ten Commandments and the importance to obey them. Play a game so that they will learn them.

### Prayer

Lord, sometimes we do things just because of rules or appearances. Teach us to follow you with all our heart. Teach us to do the works of love that you told us to-do, to be compassionate, to help those in need, to be faithful to one another and to the promises we have made. Amen



PROTECTORS H.M.

OUR LADY TOLD A MONK NAMED BENEDICT...

# ST. BRIGID of Sweden

Ry Sr. M<sup>a</sup> Carmen S.H.M.

A GIRL HAS BEEN BORN TO BIRGERIO WHOSE VOICE WILL BE HEARD THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD...



She's beautiful! Isn't she, Ingeburga?

I must educate her in the love of God and take care of her because she has been sent to me from Heaven.

In the year 1303, God gave a daughter to the married couple Birgerio and Ingeburga.

Yes, she's an angel

Brigid, a descendant of a family of kings, was born in the castle of Finsta near Upsala, the capital city of Sweden. She was educated in love and piety.

Look at how they have treated Me

AT SEVEN YEARS OF AGE SHE SAW OUR LADY, WHO SAID TO HER...

WHEN SHE WAS ELEVEN, JESUS APPEARED TO HER ON THE CROSS, SURROUNDED BY LIGHT.

Come with me! Would you like to?

Those who forget and despise my love.

Who has caused you so much harm?

YES!

AND IN THE LITTLE GIRL'S HEART THE IMAGE OF JESUS CRUCIFIED REMAINED FOREVER.

AND SHE PLACED A CROWN ON HER HEAD.



IN 1316 SHE MARRIES ULF. THEY HAD EIGHT CHILDREN, ONE OF WHOM, CATHERINE, WOULD LATER BECOME THE FIRST ABBESS OF THE CONVENT FOUNDED BY HER MOTHER.



God has united us.

We will always be together, for all eternity.

Would you like to give up everything?

THE TWO SPOUSES USED TO PRAY TOGETHER. THEY LOOKED AFTER THE POOR AND THE SICK, BUILDING SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS.

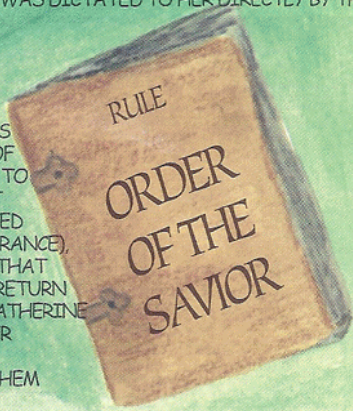
Let's give what we have, we serve a good Lord.



Thank you! God will repay you.

TWO YEARS LATER, IN 1346, SHE FOUNDED AN ORDER TO SAVE THE SCANDANAVIAN NATIONS, WHICH WOULD LATER SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD. THE NAME OF THE ORDER IS THE ORDER OF THE SAVIOUR AND ITS RULE WAS DICTATED TO HER DIRECTLY BY THE LORD.

SHE HAD TO SPEAK TO KINGS IN THE NAME OF GOD, AND EVEN TO POPES, WHO AT THAT TIME LIVED IN AVIGNON (FRANCE), TO TELL THEM THAT THEY SHOULD RETURN TO ROME. ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA LATER SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THEM TO DO THIS.



SHE TRAVELLED ON PILGRIMAGE WITH HER HUSBAND TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IN SPAIN WITH THE BROWN HABIT. WHEN THEY RETURNED ULF BECAME ILL AND DIED IN 1344.



Sweetest Jesus, I love you more than my own soul.

SHE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE POLITICS OF SWEDEN AND OF ALL EUROPE. JOHN PAUL II HAS NAMED HER PATRON SAINT OF EUROPE ALONG WITH ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. EDITH STEIN.

SHE DIED IN ROME ON THE 23RD OF JULY 1373 AT SEVENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE, ON A WOODEN TABLE.

