



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

July & August, 2015

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

July and August are the summer vacation, Take the opportunity to take the children to have fun, while they learn about creation. Emphasize the importance of prayer in the family.

Enclosed you will find some feast and saints of this month:

July 01	Blessed Junipero Serra	August 04	St John Vianney
July 03	Saint Thomas the Apostle	August 06	the Transfiguration
July 04	Independence Day-USA	August 12	Saint Claire
July 14	Saint Kateri Tekakwitha	August 15	Assumption of the Virgin Mary
July 16	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	August 27	Saint Monica
July 25	St. James the Apostle	August 28	Saint Augustine
July 26	St. Joachim & St. Anne		
July 29	Saint Martha		
July 31	Saint Ignacio Loyola		

Enclosed Material of the Month

- 1) July and August calendar
- 2) Gospel of the month
- 3 Letter of the month

Videos:

- 1) Creation
- 2) The Good Samaritan
- 3) Adam and Eve
- 4) Prayer

Our International congress will be in February 19-21, 2016, Please try to come and enjoy with us this congress

God Bless you,

Friends of Jesus and Mary

FLORIDA

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Webpage: www.fcpeace.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 JUNIPERO SERRA, PRIEST Gn 21, 5.8-20 Psalm 33 Mt 8, 28-34	2 Gn 22, 1-19 Psalm 114 Mt 9, 1-8	3 FIRST FRIDAY ST. THOMAS APOSTLE Gn 23, 1-4.19;24 1-8.62.67 Psalm 105 Mt 9, 9-13	4 FIRST SATURDAY SAINT ELIZABETH Gn 27, 1-5.15-29 Psalm 134 Mt 9, 14-17
5 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Ez 2, 2-5 Psalm 122 2Co 12, 7b-10 Mc 6, 1-6	6 ST MARIA GORETTI Gn 28, 10-22 Psalm 90 Mt 9, 18-26	7 SAINT CLAUDIUS Gn 32, 22-32 Psalm 16 Mt 9, 32-38	8 Gn 41, 55-57,42, 5-7,17-24a Psalm 32 Mt 10, 1-7	9 Gn 44, 18-21.23b- 29, 45, 1-5 Psalm 104 Mt 10, 7-15	10 Gn 46, 1-7.28-30 Psalm 36 Mt 10, 16-23	11 SAINT BENEDICT Gn 49, 29-33;50, 15-24 Psalm 104 Mt 10, 24-33
12 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Amos 7, 12-15 Psalm 84 Eph 1, 3-14 Mk 6, 7-13	13 ST HENRY II Ex 1, 8-14.22 Psalm 123 Mt 10, 34-11,1	14 ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA Ex 2, 1-15a Psalm 68 Mt 11, 20-24	15 ST. BONAVENTURE Ex 3, 1-6.9-12 Psalm 102 Mt 11, 25-27	16 OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL Ex 3, 13-20 Psalm 104 Mt 11, 28-30	17 Ex 11, 10-12,14 Psalm 115 Mt 12, 1-8	18 ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS PRIEST Ex 12, 37-42 Psalm 135 Mt 12, 14-21
19 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Jr 23, 1-6 Psalm 22 Eph 1, 13-18 Mk 6, 30-34	20 Ex 14, 5-18 Psal/Ex 15, 1-6 Mt 12,38-42	21 Ex 14, 21-15,1 Psalm/Ex 15, 8-10,12:17 Mt 12, 46-50	22 ST. MARY MAGDALENE Ex 16, 1-5.9-15 Psalm 77 Mt 13, 1-9	23 ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN Ex 19, 1-2.9.11.16 Psalm/Dt 3, 52-56 Mt 13, 10-17	24 ST. SHARBEL MAKHLUF, PRIEST Ex 20,1-17 Psalm 18 Mt 13, 18-23	25 ST JAMES THE GREATER ST CHRISTOPHER Ex 24, 3-8 Psalm 49 Mt 13, 24-30
26 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2k 4, 42-44 Psalm 144 Eph 4, 1-6 John 6, 1-15	27 ST. PANTALEON Ex 32.15-24.30-34 Psalm 105 Mt 13, 31-35	28 Ex 33, 7-11;34 5b-9.28 Psalm 102 Mt 13, 36-43	29 SAINT MARTHA Ex 34, 29-35 Psalm 98 Mt 13, 44-45	30 ST PETER CHRYSOLOGUS Ex 40,14-19.32-36 Psalm 83 Mt 13,47-53	31 ST IGNATIUS LOYOLA Lv 23, 1.4-11.15-16 27.34b-37 Psalm 80 Mt 13, 54-58	

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 FIRST SATURDAY ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI Lv 25, 1.8-17 Psalm 66 Mt 14, 1-12
2 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Ex 16, 2-4.12-15 Psalm 77 Eph 4, 17.20-24 John 6, 24-35	3 Nu 11, 4b-15 Psalm 80 Mt 14, 13-21	4 ST JOHN MARIE VIANNEY Nm 12, 1-13 Psalm 50 Mt 14, 22-36	5 DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF ST MARY MAJOR Nm 13, 2-3a.26-14.1-26 30.34-35 Psalm 105 Mt 16, 13-23	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF LORD,FEAST Nm 20, 13 Psalm 94 Mt 16, 13-23	7 FIRST FRIDAY ST SIXTUS II Dt 4, 32-40 Psalm 76 Mt 16, 24-28	8 ST DOMINIC, PRIEST Dt 6, 4-13 Psalm 17 Mt 17, 14-19
9 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1K 19, 4-8 Psalm 33 Eph 4, 30-5,2 John 6, 41-51	10 ST LAWRENCE DEACON Dt 10, 12-22 Psalm 147 Mt 17, 21-26	11 ST CLARE Dt 31, 1-8 Psalm/Dt 32,3-4a-9.12 Mt 18, 1-5.10-12-14	12 ST JANE FRANCES Dt 34, 1-12 Psalm 65 Mt 18, 15-20	13 Joshua 3, 7-10a.11.13-17 Psalm 113a Mt 18, 21-19,1	14 ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE Joshua 24, 1-13 Psalm 135 Mt 19, 3-12	15 ASSUMPTION OF VIRGIN Joshua 24, 14-29 Psalm 15 Mt 19, 13-15
16 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Pr 9, 1-6 Psalm 33 Eph 5, 15-20 John 6, 51-58	17 Judges 2, 11-19 Psalm 105 Mt 19, 16-22	18 ST. HELENA Judges 6, 11-24a Psalm 84 Mt 19, 23-40	19 Judges 9, 6-15 Psalm 20 Mt 20, 1-16a	20 ST BERNARD ABBOT Judges 11, 29-39a Psalm 39 Mt 22, 1-14	21 ST. PIUS X Ruth 1, 1.3-6.14b-16.22 Psalm 145 Mt 22, 34-40	22 QUEENSHIP OF MARY MEMORIAL Ruth 2, 1-3.8.11,4,13-17 Psalm 127 Mt 23, 1-12
23 21TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Joshua 24,1-2a.15-17 Psalm 33 Eph 5, 21-32 John 6, 60-69	24 ST. BARTHOLOMEW APOSTLE,FEAST 1 Th 1, 1-5.8b-10 Psalm 149 Mt 23, 13-22	25 ST. JOSEPH CALASANZ 1 Th 2, 1-8 Psalm 138 Mt 23, 23-26	26 ST. JUSTINA 1 Th 2, 9-13 Psalm 138 Mt 23, 27-32	27 ST MONICA,MOTHER OF ST AUGUSTINE 1 Th 3, 7-13 Psalm 89 Mt 24, 42-51	28 ST AUGUSTINE 1 Th 4, 1-8 Psalm 96 Mt 25, 1-13	29 BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST MEMORIAL 1 Th 4, 9-11 Psalm 97 Mt 25, 14-30
30 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Dt 4, 1-2.6-8 Psalm 14 James 1,17-18.21.22.27 Mk 7,1-8.14-15.21-23	31					

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Friends of Jesus and Mary
XIV Sunday of Ordinary Time July 5, 2015
Readings: Ezekiel 2, 2-5; Psalm 122; 2Co 12, 7-10; Mark 6, 1-6

Jesus 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 _____. Afterwards 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, 2015

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 told 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 can you not do by yourself? Share why it is better to work as a team.

Activity

Ask the children to pick up a partner. Together they choose someone 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 went 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, 2015

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 of it, place blocks with removable glue, 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, unite 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, 2015
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

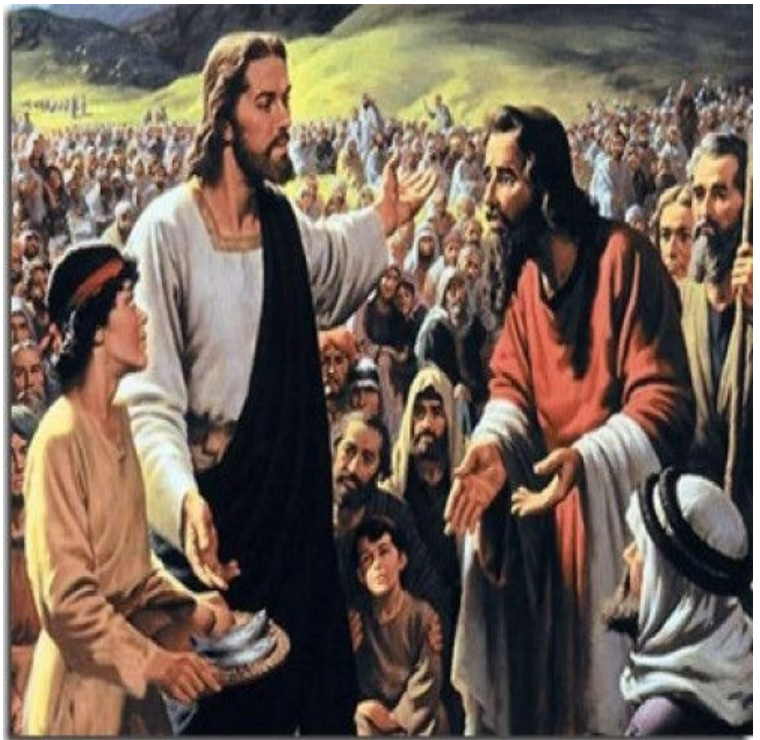
In the Old Testament, when God asked prophets to feed the people, God provided the food. Through the Eucharist, we were called to unity. God asks us to be humble, gentle, and patient. This is the best bread we can give one another. The most Christian act is sharing food. When we share what we have and 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.

Andrew: 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.
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

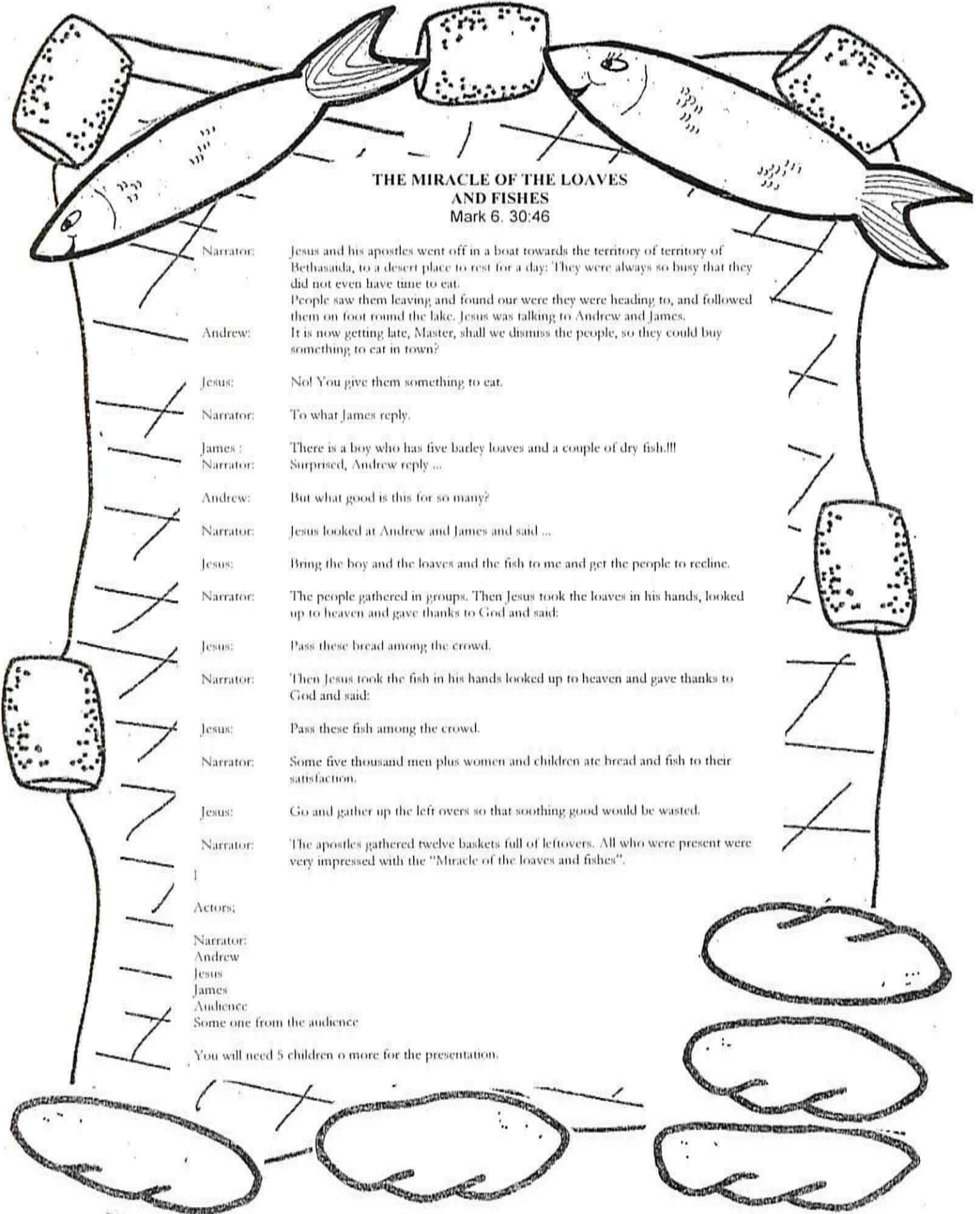
Jesus

James

Audience

Some one from the audience

You will need 5 children or more for the presentation.





Friends of Jesus and Mary

XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time August 2, 2015

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, "give 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 gives 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 would 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 someone 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.





Friends of Jesus and Mary
XIX Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9, 2015
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 do likewise.

Activity

Hand out to each child a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to divide the paper in two. On one side write things that give them strength, courage and happiness. On the other side write things that gives 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.





Friends of Jesus and Mary
XX Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16, 2015
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

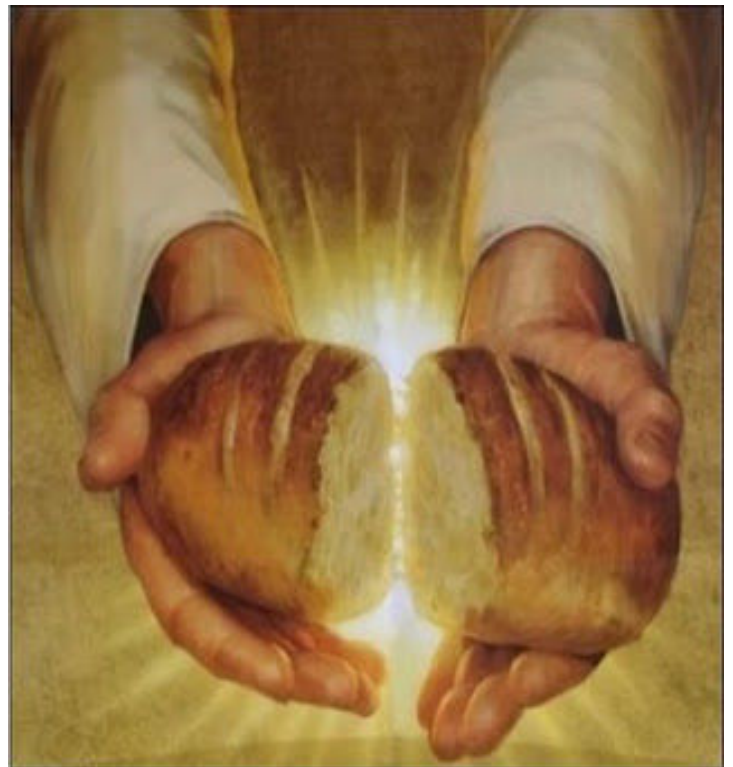
When we share a meal and the Eucharist, we gain strength to face problems together. Do their families usually eat together? Do they eat out at fast food restaurants a lot frequently? Do they like eating with their families? What does it mean when someone tells you, “If you don’t eat, you’ll waste away?” 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 used at the church to share the Eucharist and also in a family dinner. Play a game asking the children to guess what is used in the different celebrations. Remember all the times Jesus shared 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!

The grid contains the following items:

- Two lit candles on stands.
- A cross on a circular base.
- A white garment with a cross on the chest.
- A glass and a pitcher.
- A stack of plates.
- A white garment with a cross on the chest.
- A chalice with a cross on it.
- A cake on a table.
- A cake on a table.
- A white garment with a cross on the chest.
- A white garment with a cross on the chest.
- A white garment with a cross on the chest.

Below the houses are three boxes containing:

- A table.
- A group of people.
- A bench.



Friends of Jesus and Mary

XXI Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23, 2015

Readings: Joshua 24, 1-2a.15-18b; Psalm 33; Efesians 5, 15-20; 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 beginnings 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 anymore. 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?" Share.

Activity

Prepare a big poster with two roads. Prepare cards with actions that lead us to Jesus (share, tell the truth, obey, study, pray) and other cards with actions that do not lead us to Jesus (fighting, disobedience, lies, selfishness). Place them on a small box or basket. On 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

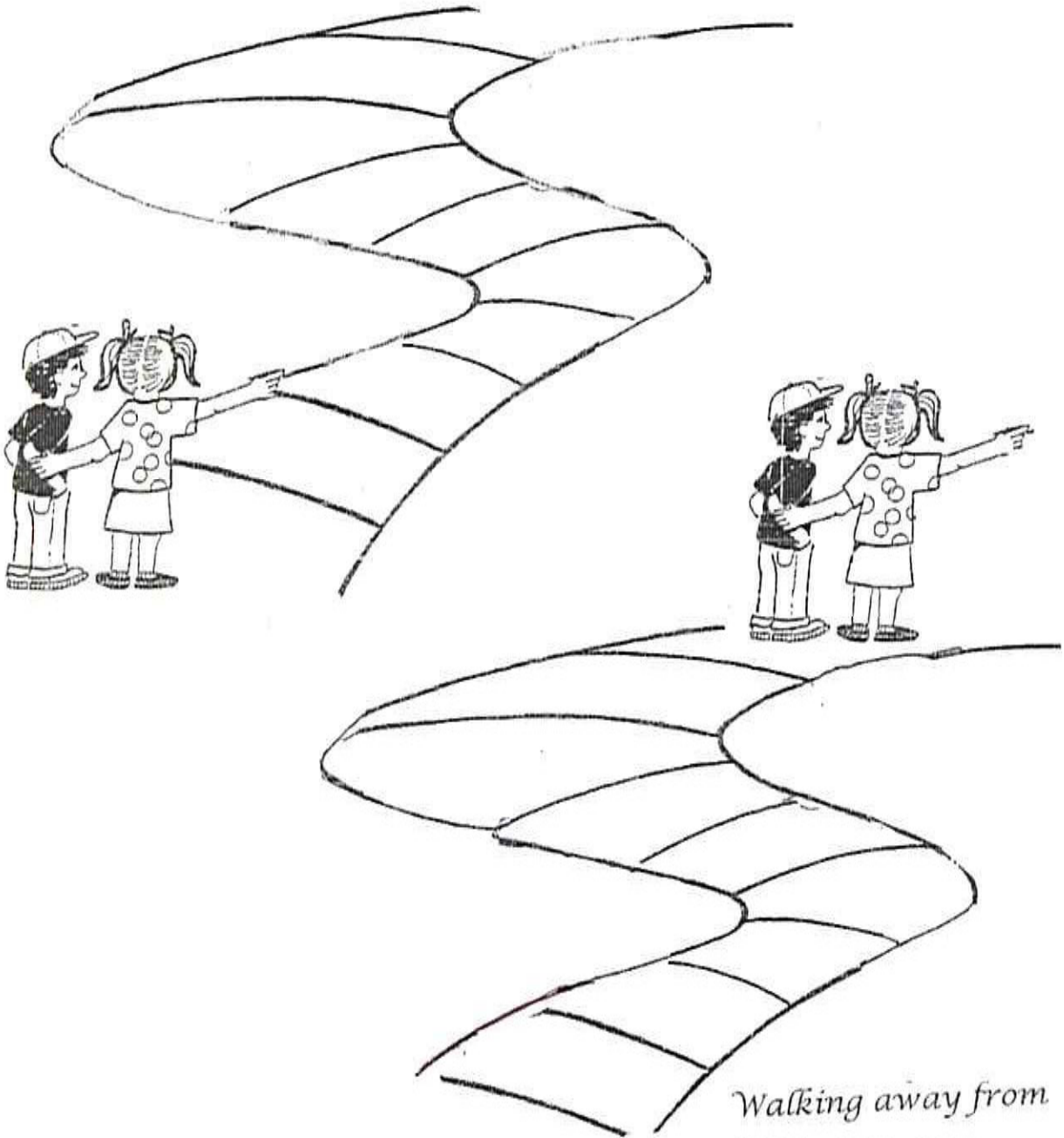
Lord you ask us to make a serious decision to serve and love you above all other things. Give us your light so that we may remember that only you give us true life. May our actions always express the love and respect you have for your church. Amen.



ACTIVITY
AUGUST 23

Walking towards to

GOD



Walking away from

GOD



Friends of Jesus and Mary

XXII Sunday in Ordinary Time; August 30, 2015

Readings: Dt. 4, 1-2.6-8; Psalm 14; James 1, 17-18. 21b-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 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.

