



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

March 2014
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sister:

Ash Wednesday, start on March 5. Lent is a time to grow in the love for Jesus. Good Friday is a special day, they remind us, of Jesus death for us. For this reason we fast and do abstinence. Try to do little sacrifices with children of the prayers groups.

Enclosed you will find the most important Feast and Saints:

March 03 Catherine Drexel
March 08 St John of God
March 15 St Louise de Marillac
March 17 Saint Patrick
March 19 Saint Joseph
March 22 St Isabel
March 25 annunciation of the Lord

Enclosed Material:

- a) Calendar & Meditations on Sunday Gospel
- b) Lenten Calendar
- c) The 7 Capital Sins
- d) Saint Patrick
- e) St. Joseph
- f) Annunciation of the Lord
- g) St Bernadette
- h) St. Andres Bessette-The Holy Porter

Suggested videos:

- 1) Easter Story
- 2) St Patrick
- 3) The Princess of Lourdes
- 4) Sharing-Quigley's Village

Remember about our VIII Congress to be placed in Nicaragua, on June 19 to 22, 2014. Share this beautiful experience with us. Don't wait make a reservation.

Friends of Jesus and Mary

FLORIDA

9779 S.W. 72ND St. – Miami, FL 33173 – Tel: (305) 412-1777 – E-mail: amigo_jym_miami@fcpeace.com
Webpage: www.fcpeace.com



March 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 FIRST SATURDAY James 5:13-20 Psalm 141 Mark 10: 13-16
2 VIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 49:14-15 Psalm 62 1Co 4:1-5 Matthew 6:24-34	3 ST. KATHARINE DREXEL DREXEL 1 Peter 1:3-9; Psalm 111 Mark 10:17-27	4 ST. CASIMIR 1 Peter 1:10-16; Psalm 98 Mark 10:28-31	5 ASH WEDNESDAY FAST & ABSTINENCE Joel 2:12-18 Psalm 51 2 Co 5:20-6:2 Matthew 6:1-6,16-18	6 Dt 30, 15-20 Psalm 1 Luke 9: 22-25	7 FIRST FRIDAY Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 51 Matthew 9:14-15	8 ST JOHN OF GOD Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 86 Luke 5:27-32
9 I SUNDAY OF LENT Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7 Psalm 51 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	10 Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Psalm 19 Matthew 25:31-46	11 S.T EULOGIUS Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 34 Matthew 6:7-15	12 Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 51 Luke 11:29-32	13 ST. EUPHRASIA Esther 12, 14-16,23-25 Psalm 138 Matthew 7:7-12	14 ST. MATILDA Ezekiel 18:21-28 Psalm 130 Matthew 5: 20-26	15 ST. LOUISE DE Deuteronomy 26:16-19 Psalm 119 Matthew 5:43-48
16 II SUNDAY OF LENT Genesis 12: 1-4a Psalm 33 2Timothy 1:8b-10 Matthew 17:1-9	17 ST PATRICK Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79 Luke 6:36-38	18 ST. CYRIL OF Isaiah 1:10,16-20; Psalm 50 Matthew 23: 1-12	19 ST JOSEPH HUSBAN OF MARY 2S 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Psalm 89 Luke 2:41-51a	20 Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1 Luke 16: 19-31	21 Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a Psalm 105 Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46	22 Micah 7:14-15,18-20; Psalm 103 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
23 III SUNDAY OF LENT Exodus 17:3-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4:5-42	24 ST. CATHERINE OF VIRGIN 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Psalm 42 Luke 4:24-30;	25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10 Psalm 40 Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38	26 Deut 4:1, 5-9; Psalm 147 Matthew 5: 17-19	27 Jeremiah 7:23-28; Psalm 95 Luke 11:14-23;	28 Hosea 14:2-10; Psalm 81 Mark 12:28-34;	29 Hosea 6:1-6; Psalm 51 Luke 18: 9-14
30 IV SUNDAY OF LENT 1 S 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	31 ST. BENJAMIN Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30 John 4:43-54;	NOTES:				

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Friends of Jesus and Mary

8^o Sunday in Ordinary Time –March 2 2014

Readings: Isaiah 49, 14-15; Psalm 61; 1Corinthians 4, 1-5; Matthew 6, 24-34

God and Possessions

“You cannot be a slave of two masters; you will hate one and love the other; you will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it? And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass -grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have! So do not start worrying: 'Where will my food come from? Or my drink? Or my clothes?' (These are things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what He requires of you, and He will provide you with all these other things. So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings.” (Matthew 6, 24-34)

Reflection

The readings of this week tell us that even if everything human, including the love of a mother, fails, the love of God would never forsake us. Jesus asks for total surrender to his reign and his work, without anything material taking first place. He thus invites us to trust and calmness since the kindness and love of God will be with us always. Do you really believe what Jesus says? What is most important to you? Are the adults in your family too concerned about material things, about making progress and having success in this society? Are they also concerned about their spiritual life and education of their faith? Share with them about the flowers and the birds.

Activity

Bring to the group pictures of flowers and birds. Describe their beauty. Do they do anything to achieve such beauty on their own? Ask them to draw pictures of themselves on a separate paper. Place a picture of a flower or bird beside the drawing. Write on it “God always takes care of me.” All together make a thanksgiving prayer to God for caring for them.

Prayer

We thank you, God of love, for the merciful care with which you protect, guide, and care for us at all times. Help us place our concerns in your hands so that we can live in peace. Amen.





Friends of Jesus and Mary
Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2014

Readings: Joel 2, 12-18; 2 Corinthians 5, 20-6, 2; Psalm 50; Matthew 6, 1-6. 16-18

Teaching about Charity and Fasting

“Make certain you do not perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do. If you do these things publicly, you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. And when you fast, do not put on a sad face as the hypocrites do. They neglect their appearance so that everyone will see that they are fasting. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you go without food, wash your face and comb your hair, so that others cannot know that you are fasting, and your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. (Matthew 6, 1-6.16-18)

Reflection

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday before the mass of the Supper of the Lord. At this time the Church reminds us of the surrender of Jesus for us and calls us to conversion. Forty days to thank Jesus for his sacrifice and love for us, doing all the things He likes. Do their families and communities celebrate Lent as a time of sacrifice? Jesus says that more important than what people do or give up for Lent is what we do because we love God and God loves us. What do you think would please Jesus that you could do this Lent? Share.

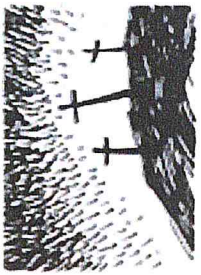
Activity

Share with each other what you plan to do this Lent. Write it on a piece of paper and place it on the altar of the group. Ask Jesus for help to accomplish it. You also can do the activity that appears on the next page.

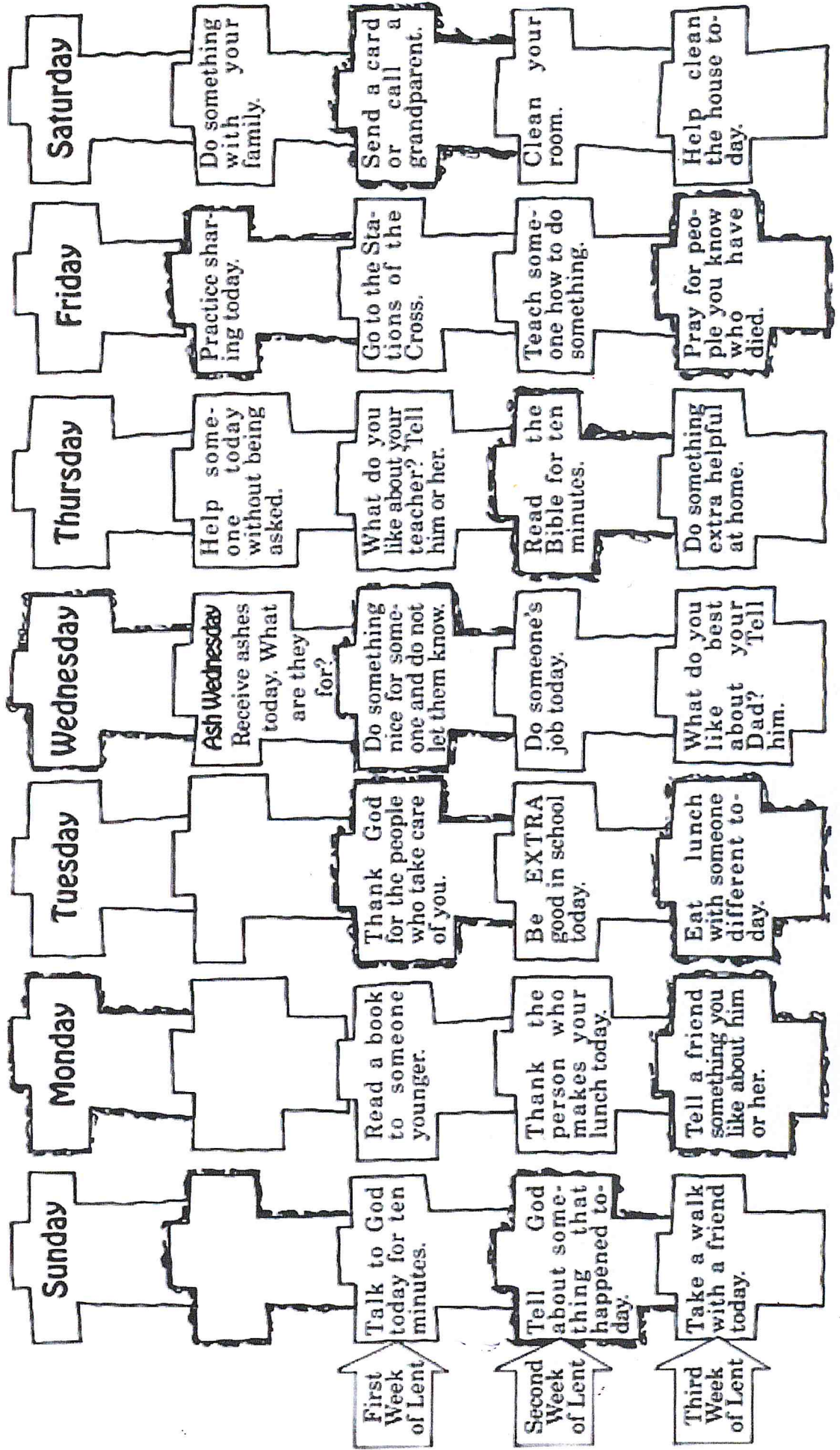
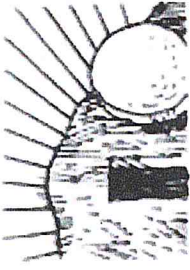


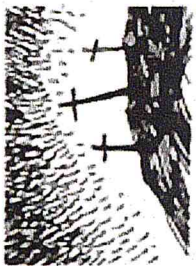
Prayer

Lord, these ashes remind us of our origin on earth and our destiny, which is you. Increase our love for you and for one another; and lead us to a new life of love, affection, compassion, and forgiveness. Amen.

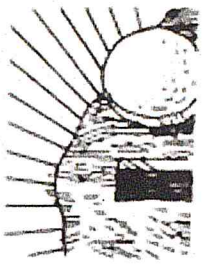


Lenten Calendar





Lenten Calendar



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Fourth Week of Lent

Say "thank you" to the person who makes your breakfast.

Say "thank you" to five people today.

Be nice to someone you don't like a lot.

Say "thank you" to whoever drives you to school.

Tell a sister, brother, or friend why they are special.

Pray for lonely people in the world.

Don't be crabby today.

Fifth Week of Lent

Thank God for your family.

Tell your mom what you like best about her.

Hug everyone in your family!

Practice sharing today.

Play with someone younger than you.

Offer to help someone today.

Make something for someone.

Holy Week

Read the Bible for ten minutes today.

What signs of spring do you see?

Tell someone the story of Jesus' Resurrection.

Say "thank you" to the person who fixes your dinner.

What do you like about mealtime at your house?

Tell someone the story of Jesus' death.

Make an Easter decoration.

Easter
He is risen!



Friends of Jesus and Mary ***1 Sunday of Lent March 9, 2014***

Readings: Genesis 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7; Psalm 50; Romans 5, 12-19; Matthew 4, 1-11

The Temptation of Jesus

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. Then the devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone but need every word that God speaks.'" Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, The Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says, 'God will give orders to his angels about you; they will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" Jesus answered, "But the scripture also says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. "All this I will give you," the Devil said, "If you kneel down and worship me." Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'" Then the Devil left Jesus; and angels came and helped him. (Matthew 4, 1-11)

Reflection

Jesus has gone through every human temptation to break away from God. By overcoming that temptation, Jesus teaches us to be children of God. Are there gangs in the neighborhood who might lure them to easy money or drugs? What ideas about success and power do we get in our homes and through TV, specially the evenings soaps? Let's ask ourselves what is most important for the bad characters? Are the good characters sometimes tempted to lie, seek revenge, or do something for money? Let's think about some time when we wanted to do something right but it was easier for us to be lazy, lie or misbehave. How did we feel not doing the right thing? Were we able to overcome some temptations? Share.

Activity

Prepare different cards for each member of the group. The cards should said: lots of money, good education, big house, lots of fame, sexual activity, elegant clothes, trips, social status, personal talents, beauty, intelligence, computer, digital games, musical instruments, cellular phones, etc. Seat the group in a circle and give each one 4 cards. Ask them to pick up 2 of them. One will represent what he needs the most. The other will represent what turns him or her away from God. Share the cards they pick up and why they chose those. Explain to them what is necessary and what is temptation. Reflect what they need to do to be better and what help they need.

Prayer

Lord, help us overcome our temptations and to realize Your great love for us. We want to be better each day. Amen.



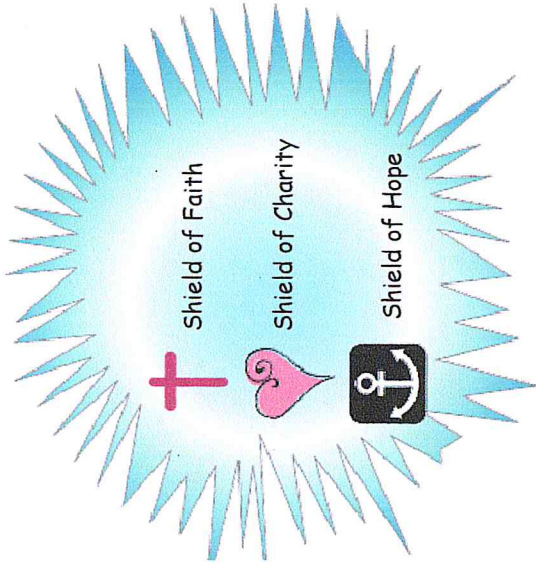
The 7 Capital Sins

QUESTIONS:

1. Tell me the first three commandments of the Law of God.
2. What is the name of the present Pope?
3. Which sacrament erases original sin?
4. Is the Eucharist a sacrament, a commandment or a prayer?
5. Whom for I receive in the Eucharist? How should I receive Him?
6. How many gods are there? How many persons are there in God?
7. Who goes to Heaven?
8. How can we lose the state of grace?
9. Tell me the 7 sacraments.
10. Can I receive the Eucharistic in mortal sin? What do I have to do?
11. Say a prayer that you know to our lady.
12. What things are necessary to receive Holy communion well?
13. What is the sing of Christians?
14. Who is the Holy Spirit?
15. What are the fifth and the seventh commandments of the Law of God?
16. Which commandment are you disobeying when you do not go to Mass on Sunday?
17. What is the purpose of amendment?

QUESTIONS ON SINS:

- Pride:** What does it mean to be prideful? A: To want to be better than others.
- Greed:** What does it mean to be greedy? A: To want to have every-thing for my self.
- Lust:** What is the sin of lust? A: To look in a disorderly manner for comfort and pleasure for the body. It goes against the sixth and ninth commandment.
- Anger:** What is the sin of anger? A: To get angry quickly, shout ...
- Gluttony:** What is the sin of gluttony? A: To eat without control.
- Envy:** What does it mean to be envious? A: To be sad because of the good of others or be happy because of something bad.
- Laziness:** What is does it mean to be lazy? A: The boy or girl that does not like work or effort. They do not get up the first time that they are called ...



Materials: Tokens, one die, little boxes with the names of the virtues written on them, a marble, someone who does not participate in the game and is in charge of asking the questions and giving out the virtue boxes.

(You can make the virtue boxes yourself or you can wrap match boxes with paper and write one of the virtues on it. You have to have a total of 7 boxes.)

The game begins on the star space. The first player rolls the die and moves the number of spaces on the outside circle, always moving to the right. If you land on a question and you answer incorrectly, the person who is not participating in the game puts a black do under your name. If you land on a sin space, they are going to ask you what that sin is, and from then on you have to try to land on the space of the virtue that is contrary to that sin. To make it easier, the sin space and the virtue that is contrary to it are the same color. **ATTENTION!** To be able to pass on the next circle you must land on the prayer space and say this sentence: "Death rather than sin", and then you can pass to the space directly below the prayer space. When you land on the virtue that is the contrary to the sin, they give you a box with the name of the virtue written on it and you go directly to the star space and you start over, repeat until you have obtained all of the virtues. You have to make a tower with the virtue boxes.

If you miss three questions (you will have three back dots), the player who is sitting in front of you, tries to knock down your tower shooting the marble from their seat, (but they only have one shot).

If they knock down some of your virtue you will have to get them again. **ATTENTION!** If you have landed on a shield space, then you have a protection card, that impedes the other player from shooting the marble, and after using it, you return the protection card. You can only have three protection card, one from each shield. For example, if you already landed on the shield of faith, if you land on it again, they will not give you another "shield of faith".

If at the beginning of the game the first space that you land on is the prayer space, say the sentence and roll again. You cannot pass on the next circle until you have landed on a sin space in the first circle, because that is when you have to try to get the virtue. The first player or team that obtains all of the virtues wins. Now its time to put into practice.



Friends of Jesus and Mary ***2 Sunday of Lent March 16, 2014***

Readings: Genesis 12, 1-4; Psalm 32; 2Timothy 1, 8b-10; Matthew 17, 1-9

The Transfiguration

Six days later Jesus took with him Peter and the brothers James and John and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. As they looked on, a change came over Jesus: his face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white. Then the three disciples saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. So Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how good it is that we are here! If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he was talking, a shining cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard the voice, they were so terrified that they threw themselves face downward on the ground. Jesus came to them and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid!" So they looked up and saw no one there but Jesus. As they came down the mountain Jesus ordered them. "Don't tell anyone about this vision you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from death." (Matthew 17,1-9)

Reflection

In the transfiguration Jesus shows himself as He is to his best friends. Jesus is radiant with light to show that he really is the Son of God. This is a call to listen to Jesus as a priority. The Transfiguration gives us a taste of the triumph of Jesus and our reasons to trust in God always. What obstacles do they find in their own homes and communities? Have they ever been so happy in one place that they didn't want to leave? Why did they have to leave? To whom do they willingly listen? What are the most difficult tasks or things they have to do? Share.

Activity

Dramatize the gospel story of this week. Explain to them that Moses and Elias are a sign of the Law and the Prophets, the two pillars of the Judaism. Jesus is the par excellence prophet, who brings to fulfillment the laws of the Old Testament, eliminates the obligations of it and teaches us the law of love to God.

Prayer

Lord, you give us light and we trust in you to continue walking with us when things are difficult. You show your splendor in the kindness, the smiles, the generosity, and affection of each member of our group and family. Thank you for making us your beloved children. Amen.

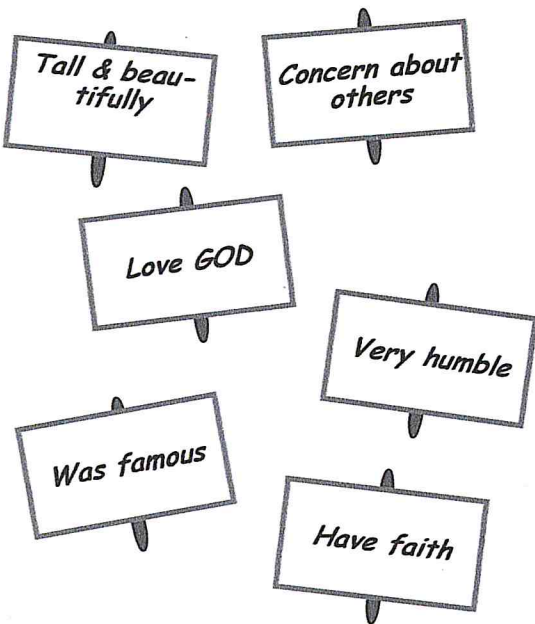


ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

THE VIRGIN MARY SAID "YES" TO GOD

God had chosen Virgin Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Savior. She was a woman that trust in the Lord; She believe the angel's word.

Paint the square that are true and cross out the false



Write (T) for true and (F) for false.
We said "yes" to God:

- When we do what Jesus teach us
- When we do not obey our parents
- When we are stubborn
- When we help others

COMMITMENT

- This week do what Jesus will said "yes" to do something our parents ask us.

Go ask them what they will like to have done, and write it down.

WE SAID "YES" TO GOD

- † Mary said "yes" to God even when she did not understand the meaning of what the angel said.
- † She teach us to said "yes" to the Lord.
- † Some time we do not understand what God tell us, but we can trust in Him as Virgin Mary did.

Saint Patrick

Missionary Bishop

Feast Day: March 17

St. Patrick, the great patron of Ireland, was actually born in Britain, the son of a deacon. In his early teens, Patrick was kidnapped and sold as a slave in Ireland. There he tended pigs and sheep for his master. He longed for his home and family, but learned to find peace through prayer.

After six years, Patrick escaped. He went to Europe to live in a monastery. There he was ordained a priest and then a missionary bishop. His mission land was Ireland.

Patrick returned to Ireland, this time to preach the Gospel. Patrick's words brought the faith to thousands of people. His holy life inspired even more. Ireland became center of Catholic faith and culture, a "land of saints and scholars".

-Marianne Slattery

Illustrated by Beth Keating



SAINT JOSEPH

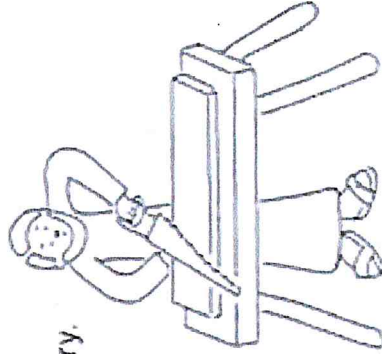
MARCH 19

Several times you have drawn the nativity scene or placed it in your house for Christmas. And as you know, there are three important people who must always be part of it.

JESUS JOSEPH MARY

All of them form the holy family, the Family of Nazareth.

- JOSEPH was a good father.
- JOSEPH was a good husband.
- JOSEPH took care of Jesus and Mary.
- JOSEPH was a faithful man.
- JOSEPH was a good worker.
- JOSEPH was kind with all people.
- JOSEPH always obeyed God.
- JOSEPH always believed.
- JOSEPH kept secrets from God.
- JOSEPH prayed with faith.
- JOSEPH was a fair man.
- JOSEPH loved and helped Mary.
- JOSEPH looked for a house for Jesus's birth.
- JOSEPH embraced the stable in Behtlehem.
- JOSEPH always said YES.



What do you ask of Saint Joseph today?



*Jesus's foster father.
Virgin Mary's husband.
Protector of the Church.*



Friends of Jesus and Mary
3 Sunday of Lent – March 23, 2014

Readings: Exodus 17, 3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5, 1-2.5-8; John 4, 5-42

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
Representation of the Gospel

Narrator: So when Jesus heard what was being said, he left Judea and went back to Galilee; on his way there he had to go through Samaria. In Samaria he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her.

Jesus: "Give me a drink of water." (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)

Narrator: The woman answered:

Samaritan: "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan so how can you ask me for a drink?"

Narrator: Jesus answered:

Jesus: "If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water."

Narrator: The woman said:

Samaritan: Sir, "You don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where would you get that life-giving water? It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his children and his flocks all drank from it. You don't claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?"

Narrator: Jesus answered:

Jesus: "Those who drink this water will get thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life."

Narrator: The woman said:

Samaritan: "Sir give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water."

Narrator: Jesus told her:

Jesus: Go and call your husband and come back.

Narrator: The woman answered:

Samaritan: I don't have a husband.

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: "You are right when you say you don't have a husband. You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth."

Narrator: The woman said:

Samaritan: Sir, I see you are a prophet, "My Samaritan ancestor's worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God."

Narrator: Jesus said to her:

Jesus: "Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvations come. But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. God is spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is."

Narrator: The woman said to him:

Samaritan: "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything."

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "I am he, I who am talking with you."

Narrator: At that moment Jesus' disciples returned, and they were greatly surprised to find him talking with a woman. But none of them said to her, "What do you want?" or asked him, "Why are you talking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there:



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Florida Center for Peace

Samaritan: “Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?”

Narrator: So they left the town and went to Jesus. In the meantime the disciples were begging Jesus “Have something to eat!”

Jesus: “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

Narrator: So the disciples started asking among themselves, “Could somebody have brought him food?” Jesus said to them:

Jesus: “My food,” Jesus said to them, “Is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do. You have a saying, ‘four more months and then the harvest.’ But I tell you, take a good look at the fields; the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! The one who reaps the harvest is being paid and gathers the crops for eternal life; so the one who plants and the one who reaps will be glad together. For the saying is true: ‘Someone plants, someone else reaps.’ I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work.”

Narrator: Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his message, and they told the woman, “We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard him, and we know that he really is the Savior of the world.” (John 4, 5-42)

Reflection

Because she was a woman and a Samaritan, Jesus was not supposed to speak to the woman at the well. But Jesus wants to give the waters of salvation to all, without exception. Only God can give the living waters. Jesus does not mind talking to a Samaritan woman, though in those times they were consider bad. How do you treat those who are not like you? Imagine your conversation with Jesus. What does he tell you about yourself? Are there things you think no one knows about you, but he knows? Jesus says that those who go to him will not be thirsty, will need nothing else to make them happy. Will you go to Jesus to look for what you need? Do you easily follow Jesus? Share.



Prayer

Lord, we want to be the water that will help us be the best we can be; giving love to all our brothers and sisters. We want to be the water that refreshes after a hard day's work, the water of love that gives strength. Amen.

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Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

Friends of Jesus and Mary ***4th Sunday in Lent, March 30, 2014***

Readings: 1 Samuel 16, 1b.6-7.10-13 Psalm 22; Ephesians 5, 8-14 John 9, 1-41

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" -which means Sent. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him." So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind? If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains." (John 9, 1-41)

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Friends of Jesus and Mary Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

Reflection

Talk with the children about blindness. Do they know anyone who is blind? What difficulties do blind people encounter? By giving sight to the blind man, Jesus says that he can give light to whomever he wants so that he can help them to see the right way to live. Do you ask Jesus for help to see what you must do? What ideas of guilt do soap operas transmit to them? What blindness or wrong ideas do we find in our families, neighbors and friends? Do they have role models of honesty, justice, and truth around them? Where can they find the guidance to follow the right path? Do they sometimes prefer not to see because it is ugly or painful, or because it makes us do uncomfortable things? In the readings of this week we can see how Christians are called to be children of the light and to reject the work of darkness. Christ can help us to see the truth about ourselves and to walk in the light with Jesus. Share.

Activity

Act the gospel of this week with the children. This way they can meditate and understand this gospel better, since it is very long. Choose the different characters: Narrator, the disciples, Jesus, the blind man, the Pharisees, and the parents of the blind man. The narrator should be someone who reads well or the leader of the group.

Prayer

Lord, we ask your blessing to enlighten our lives. Let us see when we wake up the right things and be open to what you want to show us this day. Let me see my world with a positive mind and always remember that Jesus is at my side. May I be light to all my friends and family members. Amen.



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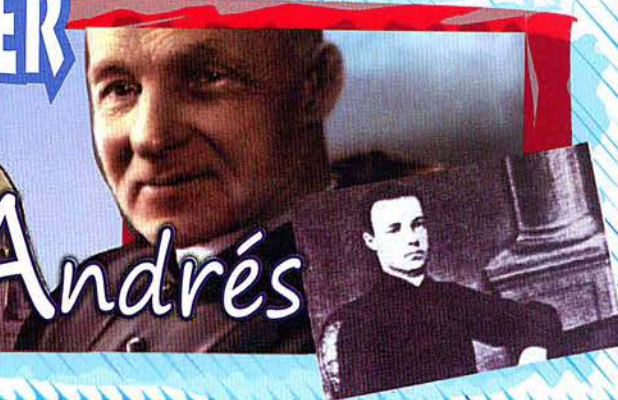
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THE HOLY PORTER



St. Andrés Bessette



Drawings: Br. Greggy, Espejón, S.H.M



The baby is very sick. He may not survive.

The Bessette family lived in Canada. They had ten children. Among them was Alfred, who was born on August 9, 1845.

Alfred, wherever you are, St. Joseph should be your friend. Ask him for help, pray to him, speak with him.

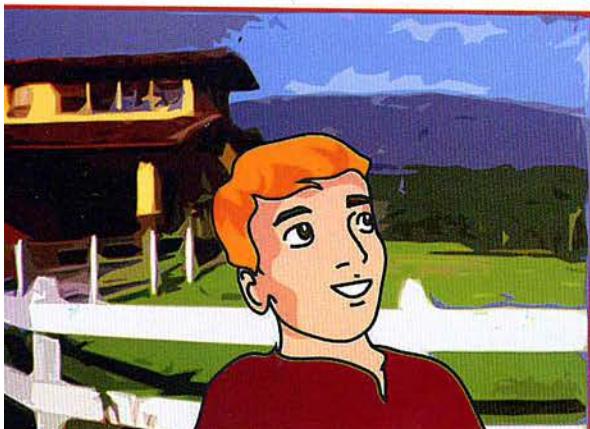


Alfred's father died when he was 9 years old and his mother died when he was 12. From then on, he would live with his Uncle Timothy and Aunt Rosalie.



St. Joseph, from today onwards, you'll be my father and you, Virgin Mary, will be my Mother.

The parish priest of the town discovers Alfred's magnanimous soul in preparing him for his First Communion, and will become a strong spiritual support for him.



Although he is often unwell, Alfred works to earn a living because his family is poor. He becomes a shoemaker, a farmer, and a blacksmith. And he continues to grow in holiness.



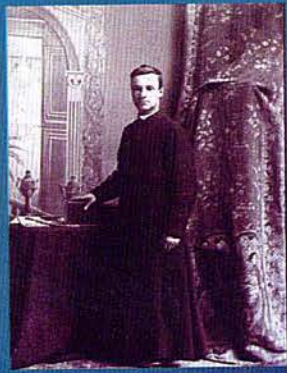
Fr. Provencal, I feel very attracted to the religious life.

I'll give you a letter for the Father Superior for when you go to the Novitiate of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montreal.



Father Superior, I'm sending you a saint for your community...

At age 20, he emigrates to the United States in search of work. He starts off in a textile mill, but the industry is harmful to his health and he goes back to Canada. He goes to visit his pastor.



He receives the habit and takes the name of Brother André. He is appointed porter at the School of Our Lady of the Snows. He is happy, and yet...



Father Superior, doesn't Brother André seem unwell. Perhaps he will have to leave the convent.

Yes. It's a pity, because he is such a good person!

And yet... One day, the Bishop of Montreal visits the school.

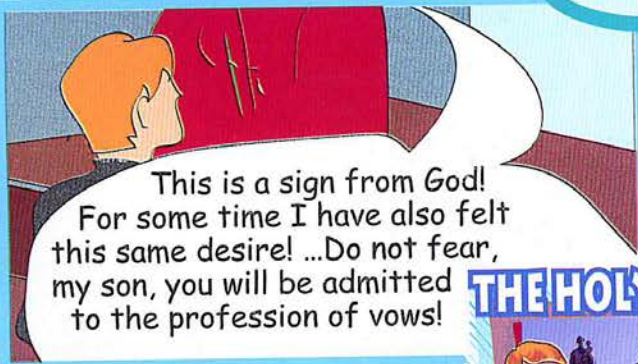


Please, Your Excellency, intercede for me, so I can take my vows. I only wish to serve God and my brothers.

Anything else?



Well, yes, actually. For some time I have had the desire to build a shrine to St. Joseph.



This is a sign from God! For some time I have also felt this same desire! ...Do not fear, my son, you will be admitted to the profession of vows!



THE HOLY PORTER

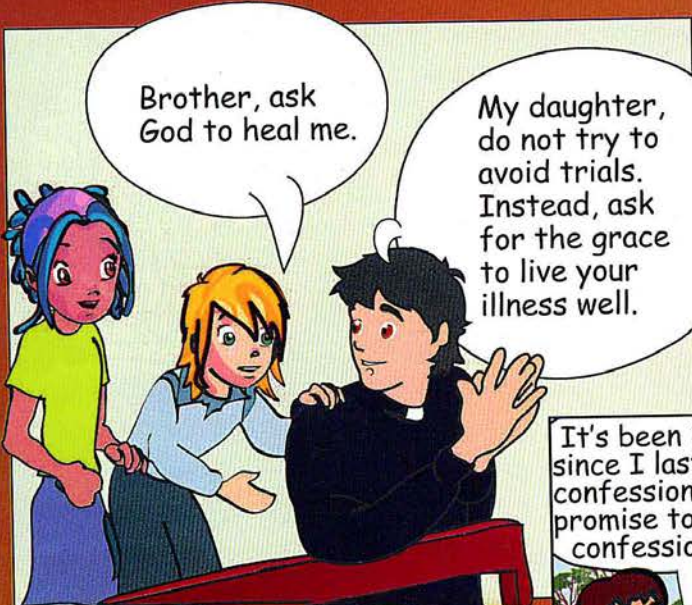


THE HOLY PORTER



Brother André would serve as the school's porter for forty years. He was always ready to serve, smiling and offering assistance to everyone. In addition, he served as laundryman, barber, and nurse for the students. And at night, when he had cleaned the hallways and the entrance, he would go to the chapel and pray for them all.

St. Joseph, today I spoke with some parents who were having a hard time. Help them. A mother of one of the students is very ill. Please heal her...Johnny's brother is suffering, help him...



Brother, ask God to heal me.

My daughter, do not try to avoid trials. Instead, ask for the grace to live your illness well.

Br. André's fame of holiness soon extends across the city and many sick come to him to be cured.

Brother André knows that spiritual illnesses are worse than physical ones. A sick man once came and was cured thanks to the spiritual remedy he was given by Br. André.

It's been 20 years since I last went to confession! Okay, I promise to go to confession!

Go to confession and start a novena to St. Joseph. Keep in mind that God sees you.



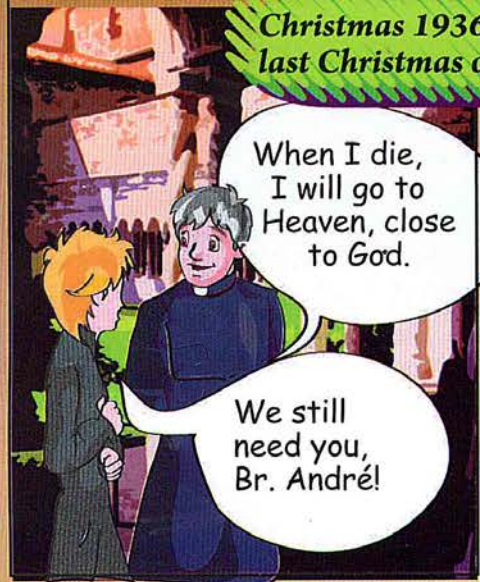
How did he know??

Br. André was not born a saint. He had defects just like you and I do. But he reached holiness because he fought to become a better person. Whenever someone called him a saint or showed any sign of disrespect towards St. Joseph, he would get very angry.



Forgive me, Lord. I lost my patience again. Give me your grace to be humble.

Christmas 1936. Br. André tells everyone it will be his last Christmas on this earth.



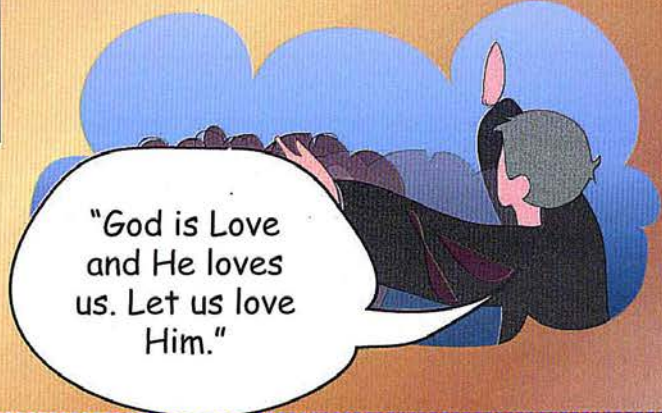
When I die, I will go to Heaven, close to God.

We still need you, Br. André!



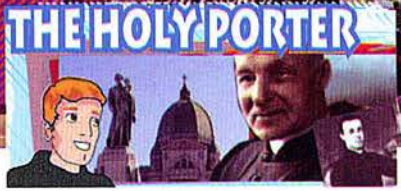
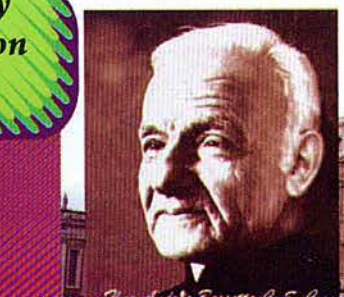
I will be able to help you more from there.

He died on January 6, 1937, at the age of 91. He spent his life speaking to God about others and to others about God. He liked to say:



"God is Love and He loves us. Let us love Him."

He was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 17, 2010.

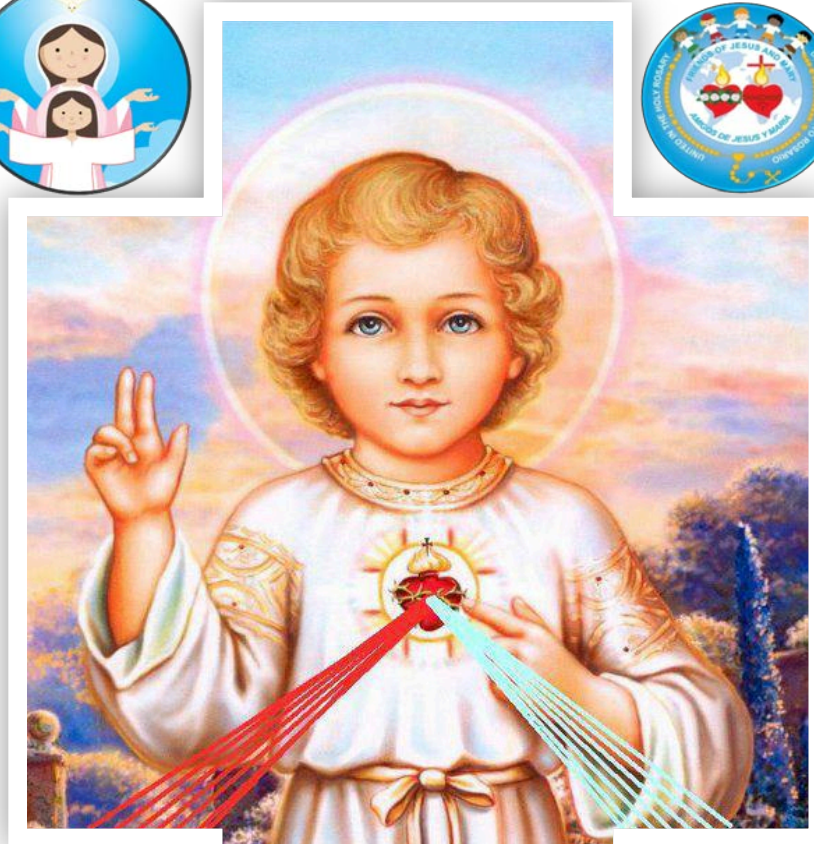


Amigos de Jesús y María

www.happysaints.com



Jesús les dijo:
«Dejad que los niños vengan a mí, y no se lo impidáis porque de los que son como éstos es el Reino de los Cielos.» Mateo 19:13-15



Para todos los llamados a servir a la niñez enseñándoles a orar en familia y en los grupos de oración.



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