



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## Amigos de Jesús y María

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**Florida Center for Peace**

July & August 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

July and August are the summer vacation is a good opportunity to take the children out to have fun. Emphasize the children the importance of prayer. We have a lot activity for the month of July and August go to our web page. [www.fcpeace.com](http://www.fcpeace.com) have a nice summer.

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	August 06	the Transfiguration
July 04	Independence Day	August 12	Saint Claire
July 14	St Katerina Tekakwitha	August 15	the Assumption
July 16	Our Lady of the 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		

### Enclosed Materials:

- a) Gospel of the month July & august
- b) July & August calendars
- c) The Transfiguration
- d) The Assumption of Virgin Mary
- e) Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- f) Mary Our Mother

### Suggested videos:

1. Creation (SHC)
2. The Good Samaritan
3. Prayer

To all the leaders thank you for your help, and have a nice summer. Remember to pray for our ministry and the children for the entire world.

May God bless you.

Friends of Jesus and Mary

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#### FLORIDA

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# July 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 JUNIPERO SERRA PRIST PRIEST  Am 3, 1-8; 4, 11-12 Psalm 5 Matthew 8, 23-27	2  Am 5, 14-15.21-24 Psalm 49 Matthew 8, 28-34	3 ST THOMAS APOSTLE  Eph 2, 19-22 Psalm 116 John 20, 24-29	4 FIRST FRIDAY INDEPENDENCE DAY USA  Am 8, 4-6. 9-12 Psalm 118 Matthew 9, 9-13	5 FIRST SATURDAY  Am 9, 11-15 Psalm 84 Matthew 9, 14-17
6 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  Zec 9, 9-10 Psalm 144 Ro 8. 9.11-13 Matthew 11, 25-30	7  Ob 2, 16.17b-18.21-22 Psalm 144 Matthew 9, 18-26	8  Ob 8, 4-7.11-13 Psalm 113b Matthew 9, 32-38	9  Eph 1, 3-6.11-12 Psalm 112 Luke 11, 27-28	10  Ob 11, 1-4.8c-9 Psalm 79 Matthew 10, 7-15	11 ST BENEDICT  Ob 14, 2-10 Psalm 50 Matthew 10, 16-23	12  Isaiah 6, 1-8 Psalm 92 Matthew 10, 24-33
13 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  Isaiah 55, 10-11 Psalm 64 Ro 8, 18-23 Matthew 13, 1-23	14 ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA  Isaiah 1, 10-17 Psalm 49 Matthew 10, 34-11,1	15 ST BONAVENTURE BISHOP  Isaiah 7, 1-9 Psalm 47 Matthew 11, 20-24	16 OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL  Isaiah 10, 5-7.13-16 Psalm 93 Matthew 11, 25-27	17  Isaiah 26, 7-9.12.16-19 Psalm 101 Matthew 11, 28-30	18  Isaiah 38, 1-6.21.22.7-8 Psalm/Isaiah 38 Matthew 12, 1-8	19 BASIL THE GREAT  Mic 2, 1-5 Psalm 92 Matthew 12, 14-21
20 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  Ws 12, 13.16-19 Psalm 85 Ro 8, 26-27 Matthew 13, 24-43	21  Mic 6, 1-4.6-8 Psalm 49 Matthew 12, 38-42	22 ST MARY MAGDALENE  SGS 3, 1-4A Psalm 62 John 20, 1.2.11-18	23 ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN  Jr 1, 1.4-10 Psalm 70 Matthew 13, 1-9	24  Jr 2. 1-3.7-8.12-13 Psalm 35 Matthew 13, 10-17	25 ST. JAMES THE GREATER APOSTLE  Acts 4, 33; 5, 12.27-33 Psalm 66 Matthew 20, 20-28	26 STS JOACHIN & ANN PARENTS OF V. MARY  Jr 7, 1-11 Psalm 83, 3-6.8-11 Matthew 13, 24-30
27 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  1K 3, 5.7-12 Psalm 118 Ro 8, 28-30 Matthew 13, 44-52	28 ST. VICTOR  Jr 13, 1-11 Psalm/Dt 32, 18-21 Matthew 13, 31-35	29 ST. MARTHA  1 John 4, 7-16 Psalm 33 John 11, 19-27	30  Jr 15, 10.16-21 Psalm 58 Matthew 13, 44-46	31 ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA  Jr 18, 1-6 Psalm 145 Matthew 13, 47-53		
NOTES:						

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# August 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 FIRST FRIDAY ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORY  JR 26, 1-9 Psalm 68 Matthew 13, 54-58	2 FIRST SATURDAY  JR 26, 11-16.24 Psalm 68 Matthew 14, 1-12
3 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  Isaiah 55, 1-3 Psalm 144 Ro 8, 35.37-39 Matthew 14, 13-21	4 ST. JOHN MARIE VIANNEY  Jr 28, 1-17 Psalm 118 Matthew 14, 22-36	5  Jr 30, 1-2.12-15.18-22 Psalm 101 Matthew 15, 1-2.10-14	6 Transfiguration of the Lord  Dt 7, 9-10.13-14 Psalm 96 Matthew 17, 1-9	7 St Sixtus II Pope  Jr 31, 31-34 Psalm 50 Matthew 16, 13-23	8 St Dominic Priest  Nh 2, 1.33; 3, 1-3.6-7 Psalm /Dt 32 Matthew 16, 24-28	9  Hb 1, 12-24 Psalm 68 Matthew 14, 1-12
10 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  1 K 19, 9a.11-13a Psalm 84 Ro 9, 1-5 Matthew 14, 22-33	11 ST CLARE  Ez 1, 2-5.24-28c Psalm 148 Matthew 17, 22-27	12 ST JANE FRANCES  Ez 2, 8-3, 4 Psalm 118 Matthew 18, 15-20	13  Ez 9, 1-7; 10, 18-22 Psalm 112 Matthew 18, 15-20	14 ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE  Ez 12, 1-12 Psalm 77 Matthew 18, 21-19, 1	15 ASSUMPTION OF VIRGIN MARY  Bel 11, 19a; 12, Psalm 44 1 Co 15, 20-27 Luke 1, 39-56	16 ST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY  Ez 18, 1-10.13b.30-32 Psalm 50 Matthew 19, 13-15
17 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  Isaiah 56, 1.6-7 Psalm 66 Ro 11, 13-15 Matthew 15, 21-28	18 ST HELENA  Ez 24, 15-24 Psalm / Dt 32, 18-21 Matthew 19, 16-22	19  Ez 28, 1-10 Psalm/Dt 32 Matthew 19, 23-30	20  Ez 34, 1-11 Psalm 22 Matthew 20, 1-16	21 ST PIUS X  Ex 36, 23-28 Psalm 50 Matthew 22, 1-14	22 QUEENSHIP OF MARY MEMORIAL  Isaiah 9, 1-3.5-6 Psalm 112 Luke 1, 26-38	23 ST. ROSE OF LIMA  1 Co 7, 25-31 Psalm 44 Matthew 19, 3-12
24 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  Matthew 16, 13-20	25 ST LOUIS IX  2Th 1, 1-5.11b-12 Psalm 95 Matthew 23, 13-22	26  2Th 2, 1-3a. 14-17 Psalm 95 Matthew 23, 23-26	27 ST MONICA-MOTHER OF ST AUGUSTINE  2Th 3, 6-10.16-18 Psalm 127 Matthew 23, 27-32	28 ST AGUSTINE BISHOP  1 Co 1, 1-9 Psalm 144 Matthew 24, 42-51	29  Jr 1, 17-19 Psalm 70 Mk 6, 17-29	30  1Co 1, 26-31 Psalm 32 Matthew 25, 14-30
31 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  Matthew 16, 21-27		NOTES:				

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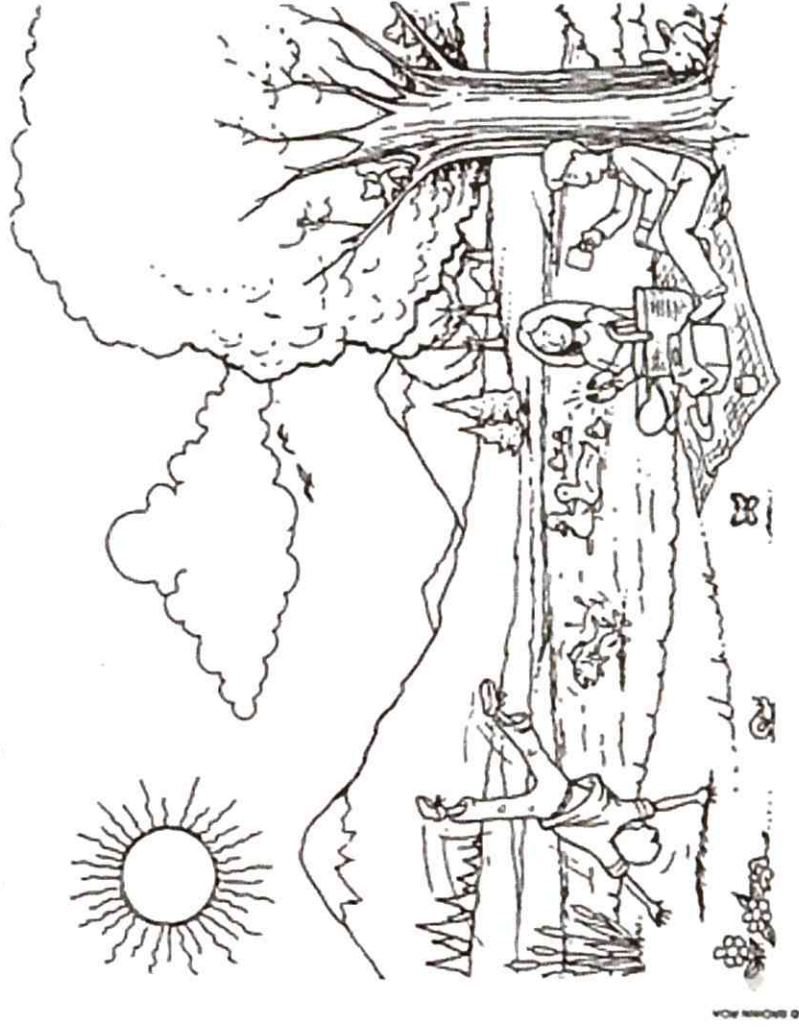
## We Meet God

God loves everything he has made. God loves all the plants and trees. God loves all the animals. And God loves you.

God cares for all of his creation. God cares for you. God wants you to care, too.

God gave you many gifts. God wants you to use your gifts. God wants you to love others. God wants you to care for others.

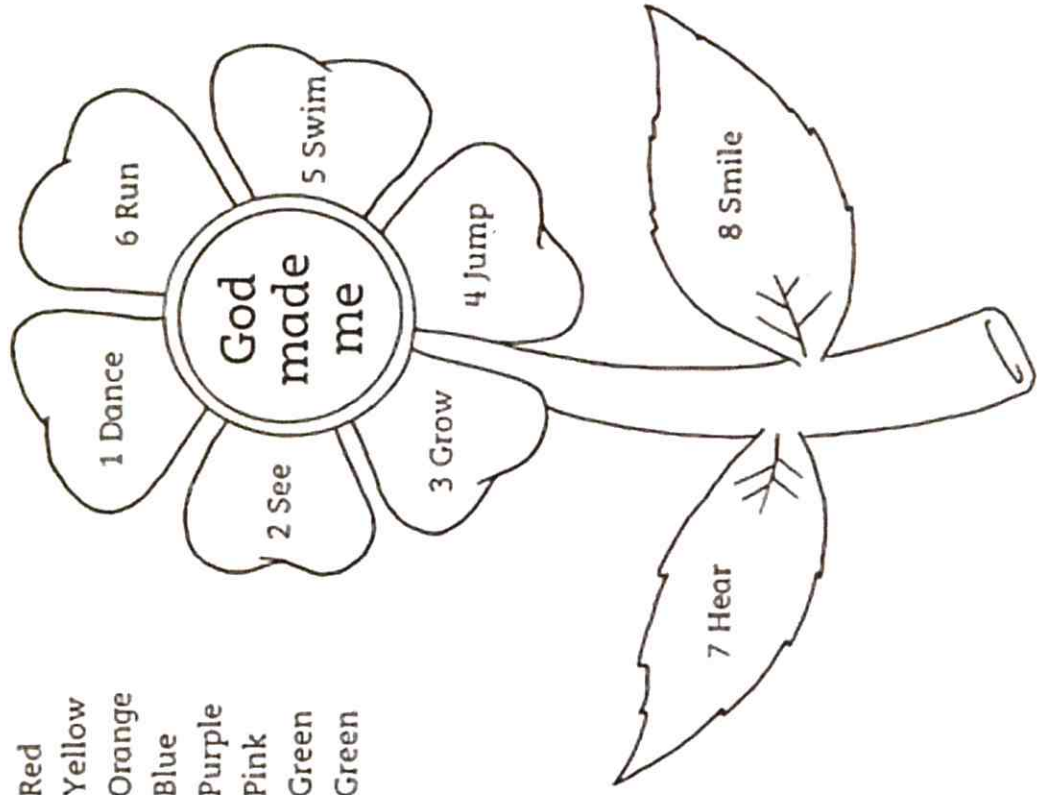
What gifts can you see in this picture?



## Gifts from God

Color all the things you are able to do.

- 1 = Red
- 2 = Yellow
- 3 = Orange
- 4 = Blue
- 5 = Purple
- 6 = Pink
- 7 = Green
- 8 = Green



Life is a special gift.  
It is wonderful to be alive.



***Friends of Jesus and Mary***  
***XIV Sunday of Ordinary Time July 6, 2014***

***Readings: Zechariah 9, 9-10; Psalm 144; Romans. 8, 18-23; Matthew 11, 25-30***

***Jesus offers us rest***

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light. (Matthew 11, 25-30)

***Reflection***

Jesus is always right there to help us when we need him. Do you talk to Jesus about what makes you tired or worried? What problem do you have? Trust in Jesus, He will help, you. **Share.**

***Activity***

Ask the children to draw on a piece of paper things that helps them rest. Example: the beach, a hammock, the movies, prayer, friends, etc. On the back of the paper they should write their commitment.

***Prayer***

Lord you offer us rest. You are kind, patient and always loving. You are good with all and take care of all creation. Make us rest, may our bonds be like yours; gentle and kind. May we find rest in you and in one another. **Amen.**







***Friends of Jesus and Mary***  
***XV Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 13, 2014***

***Readings: Isaiah 55, 10-11; Psalm 64; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13: 1-23***

***The seed falls on different grounds***

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow and as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty fold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." (Matthew 13, 1-9)

***Reflection***

The word of God is like the rain that makes the earth fruitful, it has the power to change our lives. Good soil is that which produces fruit, that which when it listens to God, serves and treats others more lovingly. What kind of soil are we? What distracts us and takes us away from God? What good deeds have we done? Are you good soil for God? **Share.**

***Activity***

Draw some seeds of different kinds on the lower part of a piece of paper. Draw from each seed branches and flowers. Write in each flower and branch an action that will make it grow. Example: prayer, taking a friend to mass, helping at home, etc.

***Prayer***

Lord, open our ears to listen to one another, as well as to hear what you want from us. Make us "good soil" that welcomes your seeds and produces the works of compassion, love, service and justice. Jesus, I want to be good soil. **Amen.**



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

July 16



## THE SCAPULAR IS A SIGN OF MARY

One of the signs in the tradition of the church from many centuries ago is the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is a sign approved by the church and by the Carmelite Order as an external sign of love for Mary, of the trust her children have in her and of commitment to live like her.

The word scapular indicates a form of clothing which monks wore when they were working.

With the passage of time, people began to give symbolic meaning to it: the cross to be borne everyday as disciples and followers of Christ. In some religions, such as the Carmelites, the scapular turned into a sign of their way of life. The Scapular came to symbolize the special dedication of Carmelites to Mary, the Mother of God, and to express trust in her motherly protection as well as the desire to be like her in her commitment to Christ and to others. Thus it became a sign of Mary.

## Short form of giving the Scapular

Receive this Scapular, a sign of your special relationship with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whom you pledge to imitate.

May it be a reminder to you of your dignity as a Christian, in serving others and imitating

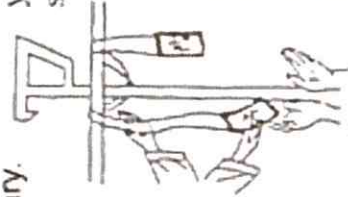
Mary. Wear it as a sign of her protection and of belonging to the family of Carmel, voluntarily doing the will of God and devoting yourself to building a world true to his plan of community, justice and peace.

## Some Practical Rules

> People are enrolled in the Scapular only once, by a priest or authorized person.

> The scapular can be replaced afterwards by a medal which has on one side the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the other, the image of Mary.

> The scapular holds us to live as authentic Christians in line with teaching the Gospel, to receive the sacraments, to profess our special devotion to the Blessed Virgin, which should be expressed each day, at least by saying the Hail Mary three times.







## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 20, 2014***

***Readings: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19; Psalm 85; Romans 8, 26-27; Matthew 13, 24-43***

### ***The truth will come out in the end***

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in the field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the house holder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him: 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.''" (Matthew 13: 24-30)

### ***Reflection***

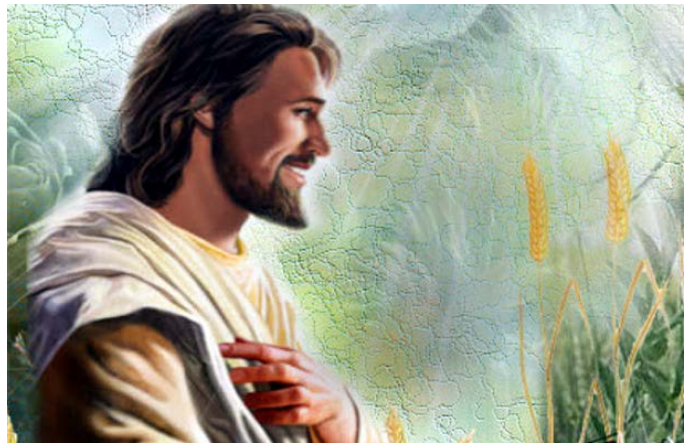
What things around you could destroy your goodness? What values does this society transmit to you? Who are the "good" plants and the weeds around you? How do you know the difference? **Share.**

### ***Activity***

Dramatize the scene of the gospel. First, as it is presented, and then as it could happen today.

### ***Prayer***

Lord, help us to trust that goodness will triumph. Teach us to be patient as you are patient with us. Teach us to do well and trust in your Word. You always forgive us, your love is always there for us. Hear me Lord, listen to my prayer. Help me be good. **Amen.**







***Friends of Jesus and Mary***  
***XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 27, 2014***

***Readings: 1 Revelation 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 24; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-52***

***Seek God, the true treasure***

“The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from the storeroom both the new and the old.” When Jesus finished these parables, he went away from there. (Matthew 13:44-52)

***Reflection***

In the parables that Jesus tells us in this reading He shows us that the reign of God is worth much more than any possession or anything in this world. Do you find it strange that those people left everything behind in order to get the pearl or the treasure? What would you leave behind to reach something very important to you? Jesus tells us that his friendship is worth more than any possession. What do you appreciate the most? **Share.**

***Activity***

Bring a box with treasures, things that are very important for people today. Ask to name these things again by names of things God gives us. Each one pick an object and present it to God and say: Jesus I want to follow you.



***Prayer***

Lord, everything that we are and we have comes from you. Let us always remember it. We want to be with you. **Amen.**



## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 3, 2014***

***Readings: Isaiah 55: 1-3; Psalm 144; Romans 8: 35, 37-39; Matthew 14: 13-21***

### ***The feeding of the five thousand, Jesus multiplies loaves and fish***

When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached Him and said: “This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away, give them some food yourselves.” But they said to him, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.” Then he said: “Bring them here to me,” and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children. (Matthew 14:13-21)

#### ***Reflection***

Jesus performs the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish. He calls us to share and give of ourselves to others. What excuses do people often have not to share? God offers a great abundance of blessings to those who come to him and follow his call. Nothing in life is worth as much as this call.

#### **Share.**

#### ***Activity***

Ask the children to bring food to share with others. Share the joy of sharing. Each one makes the commitment to help someone who is not friendly this week.

#### ***Prayer***

Lord, make us attentive to the needs of others, their hungers, desires, and dreams. Make us bread for them, teaching us the generosity to give of ourselves so that everyone can have their aspirations fulfilled. **Amen.**



*The Transfiguration*  
*August 6*







## *Friends of Jesus and Mary*

*XIX Sunday in Ordinary Time August 10, 2014*

*Readings: 1 Revelations 19:9a, 11 -1 3; Psalm 84; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14:22-33*

### *Jesus walks on the water*

Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost", they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me! Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, truly, you are the Son of God.

(Matthew 14: 22-33)

#### *Reflection*

We often say we trust God but when there is a terrible storm in our lives-like the death of a loved one, sickness, etc. it appears as if God were sleeping and not hearing our prayers. It is during these times that we need a greater trust in the power of God. **Share.**

#### *Activity*

Ask the children which are the things they fear. On a piece of paper draw a happy face and a mad face. Write underneath each one a happy or sad action. **Share.**

#### *Prayer*

Lord help us not to be afraid and to trust in you. Especially help us when problems come. Give us compassion and tenderness to support all those who feel overwhelmed by life. **Amen.**







## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary*** ***Assumption of Mary August 15, 2014***

***Readings:*** Revelations 11:19; 12: 1-6a, 10a; Psalm 44; 1Corinthians 15, 20-27a; Luke 1, 39-56

### ***Mary Visits Elizabeth***

Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How blessed you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!" Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call me blessed, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me. His name is Holy; from one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honor him. He has stretched out his right arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has kept the promise he made to our ancestor, and has come to the help of his servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!" Mary stayed about three months with Elizabeth and then went back home. **(Luke 1, 39-56)**

### ***Reflection***

Jesus loved so much her mother that He took her in body and soul to Heaven. From Heaven she cares and intercedes for all of us. When Jesus died he gave her as our mother to love and venerate her. **Share.**

### ***Commitment for the week***

This week I will try to increase my love and respect to the Virgin Mary. She is with Jesus in Heaven and intercedes for us. Let's talk about the Virgin Mary to someone that does not know her.

### ***Prayer***

Thank you Jesus for Mary your mother. By her example, may we be obedient to your divine will and believe in your promises. May she always be our example to follow. **Amen.**



# FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

## Mary is Assumed into Heaven

*August 15*



Because Jesus loved his mother so much she was taken to heaven body and spirit when she died. From heaven she cares for us.



## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XX Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 17, 2014***

***Readings: Isaiah 56, 1.6-7; Psalm 66; Romans 11, 13-15.29-32; Matthew 15, 21-28***

### ***A Canaanite woman's faith***

Then Jesus went from that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did him homage, saying: "Lord help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour. (Matthew 15, 21-28)

### ***Reflection***

Do I have the tendency to give up in my desires and petitions to God if I feel they are not fulfilled immediately and in the way I would like? What do I usually pray for? Imagine you are the woman. Do you stop insisting because Jesus does not want to listen to you? What do you say to convince him? Jesus is moved by the insistence and strong faith of the woman. What convinces you that you must help others? Do you reject some children because they are not like you? **Share.**

### ***Activity***

Dramatize the scene as it appears on this Sunday gospel. Then dramatize it adapted to today's world.

### ***Prayer***

Lord, sometimes we don't pray well because we pray selfishly. Other times we are discouraged because it is not answered immediately. Give us a strong and generous faith open to others and with the desire to follow you always regardless of what happens. **Amen.**





## August 22 Mary, Our Queen

We can think of today's feast as connected with Mary's Assumption, which we celebrated on August 15. Today we think of Mary with her Son in heaven. She is there with her body as well as her soul.

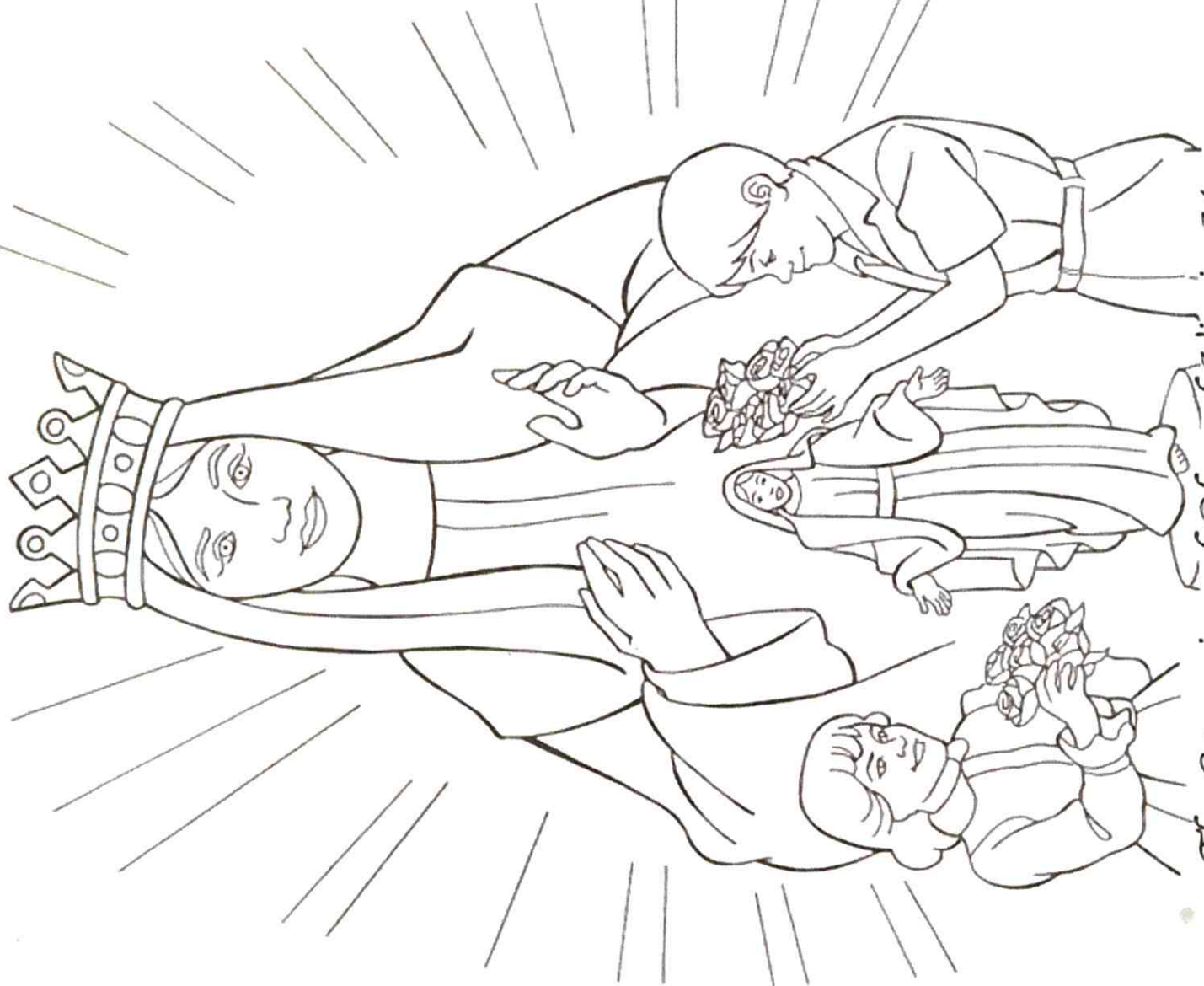
Even though governments today are often democracies, we can still understand the importance of kings and queens in the history of many countries. A good queen was greatly loved and served with joy. That is the kind of queen Mary, our Mother, is. She is a kind and loving queen. She is our mother and teacher too.

As our Mother, Mary takes care of us. We never have to be ashamed to ask her for anything. She will give us spiritual gifts. She will help us with our physical needs. She is also our teacher, because she left us examples of how to be true disciples of Jesus. If we invite Mary to be our queen, she will teach us many wonderful things about the life of Jesus in us. She will take us to her Son.

We can honor Mary everyday in several ways. We can whisper a Hail Mary when we are walking along or doing a chore. We can spend some quiet time in our room or another location and say the Rosary. We can keep a little statue or picture of Mary near our bed to remind us to honor her with prayer.

This is the way to make Mary the center and queen of our hearts. We can say the Hail Mary often throughout the day:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*



*The Crowning of Blessed Virgin Mary  
Jesus crowns Mary his mother, Queen of Heaven and Earth.  
She is Queen of the Universe and of our hearts.*





## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XXI Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 24, 2014***

***Readings: Isaiah 22, 19-23; Psalm 137; Romans 11, 33-36; Matthew 16, 13-20***

### ***Peter's Confession about Jesus***

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is? They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply: "Blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah. (Matthew 16, 13-20)

### ***Reflection***

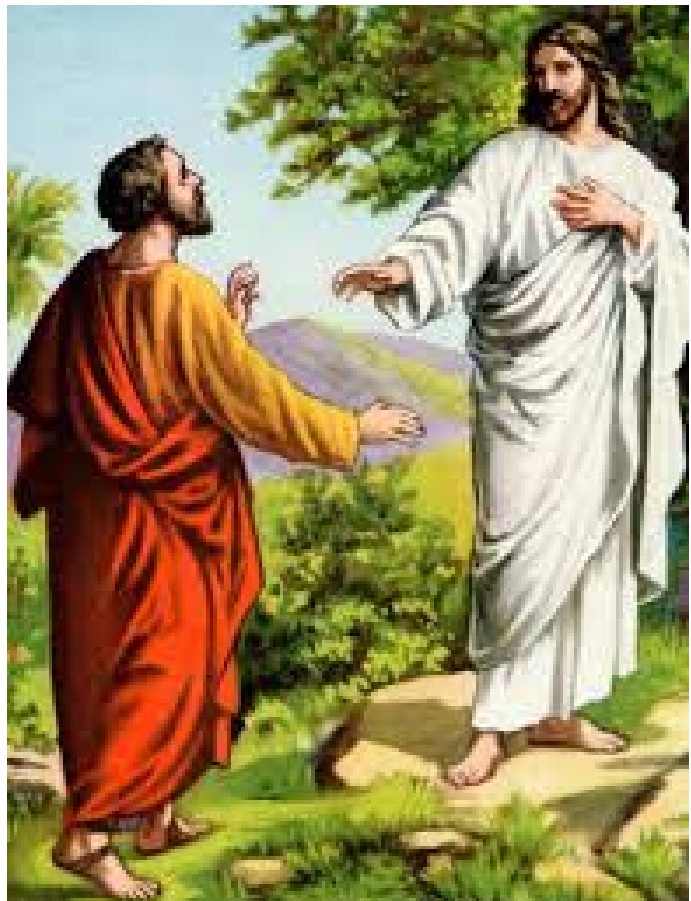
All of us would like to know what others think about us. In this Sunday gospel Jesus wants to know the same. Are you surprised about what Peter answers Jesus? If you were Peter, what would you tell Jesus about leading His church? If you were one of the others disciples, what would you think of Peter? He is a simple fisherman, and receiving such a great job. Who do you said Jesus is? **Share.**

### ***Activity***

Tell to the children about the Pope, bishops, and the structure of the Catholic Church. The Pope as the successor of Peter, the bishops as successors of the apostles. Tell them the name of the local bishop and Pastor.

### ***Prayer***

Lord, you have given us everything, and everything comes from you. Thanks for choosing Peter as our leader. Thanks for our bishops, our pastor and priests. **Amen.**





## ***Friend of Jesus and Mary***

***XXII Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 31, 2014***

***Readings: Jeremiah 20: 7-9; Psalm 62; Romans 12, 1-2 Matthew 16: 21-27***

### ***The First Prediction of the Passion***

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?"

For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory. And then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." **(Matthew 16:21-27)**

#### ***Reflection***

Following Jesus may be hard but this is the only thing that has meaning and that gives abundant life. What are most of the things that are most difficult to give up? What would they want to keep for themselves without sharing with anyone? Have you ever felt very lonely when you have wanted to share with others? What might Jesus have wanted to say about losing when one refuses to give? **Share.**

#### ***Activity***

Draw and cut out crosses. On one side write your name and something that is difficult but they know must accept. Place all the crosses in a basket and offer them at the time of prayer.

#### ***Prayer***

Lord, we sometimes find it hard to accept the path of a sacrifice for the good of others. But that is what is holy and pleasant to you. Make us generous and confident that in such self-giving we will find your abundant life. **Amen.**

