

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD LEVEL II 2011-12

Summary of Presentations for October 2011

PCYI (Protecting Children and Youth Initiative)

This presentation is a mandate by the Archdiocese of St. Paul Minneapolis in order to remind our children how to stay safe in a variety of environments and situations. The children meet together in a particular age group (Level I includes 3-Kindergarten, Level II includes first - third graders and Level III includes fourth - sixth graders) to review a series of photographs depicting different situations they might find themselves in...such as two siblings wrestling or children walking past a neighbor's house. The content is age appropriate and carefully directed to ensure proper language and conduct. Parents are invited to observe the session. If you prefer to cover this information at home, please sign an "Opt Out" form located in the Religious Education Office.

PRISM FOOD DRIVE:

Kid-friendly foods are being collected October 5 and 12 in support of our neighbors in need. A grocery bag and list of food ideas was sent home last week.

PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR:

Doctrinal Content: Jesus reveals to us our place before God and man.

Direct Aim: To initiate the child to prayer.

The parable is introduced to the children including what a parable is. Pharisees were a group of people in Israel who very carefully observed the Law of the Torah. They dressed differently and could be identified by their dress. Tax collectors served the Romans and were not well accepted people. The Pharisees were under Roman rule. The Scripture text, Luke 18:9-14, is read and two-dimensional figures are moved according to the Scripture. Reflection is done about what Jesus is telling us in the parable, what the Pharisee did and how he prayed, and what the tax collector did and how he prayed. The children work with the materials, do an individual art response, or copy the prayers.

At Home: Talk about the different kinds of prayer (praise, thanksgiving, blessing, adoration, intercession, or petition). What kind of prayers do you as a family wish to offer to God?

LA FETTUCCIA (THE UNITY AND VASTNESS OF THE HISTORY):

Doctrinal Content: The History of the Kingdom of God is one united history because of God's constant presence and activity. There are three great moments in the History of the Kingdom of God – Creation, Redemption, and Parousia. God created all nonliving and living creatures. He created humankind in his likeness to enjoy and care for all the gifts of Creation.

Direct Aims: To increase in the child the desire to know more about what is written in the Bible about the Kingdom of God and to awaken wonder and awe in the child.

The La Fettuccia material is presented over two weeks. The first week a meditation is done telling about the creation of the world (the moment of Creation) from space to rocks and minerals to sea life to plants and animals, and to people. The passing of long periods of time is stressed with the children. The people at that time wondered who could have created this beautiful world. They found in the Bible the words "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". Time passed and one day in Bethlehem Jesus the Savior was born, he lived, died, and rose (the moment of Redemption). The meditation continues with the blank page, that part of history which remains to be written and closes with the moment of Parousia, that time in history when God will be all in all.

The second week a Bible is opened to Genesis 1:1, and a very long ribbon (approximately 54 yards) is unrolled as the story is retold. The three great moments of Creation, Redemption, and Parousia are again stressed. At various times, the children are to reflect on the length of the ribbon indicating the passage of time. The children work with the materials, laying out the ribbon again, locating the three great moments, copying the text, making their own "ribbon strip", or doing an individual art response.

At Home: Read the story of Creation in Genesis Chapter 1 and talk about the three great moments – Creation, Redemption, Parousia.