

## **CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - LEVEL I – 2011-12**

### **Summary of Presentations for November 2011/CYCLE A**

#### **ALTAR I (The Altar):**

**Doctrinal Content:** Eucharist is a meal to which Jesus invites the family of God so that we can share in Christ's life. We announce the death and resurrection of Jesus – The Mystery of Faith.

**Direct Aims:** To name, give the use, and make accessible to the children the essential articles used during Eucharist – the altar, altar cloth, paten, chalice, crucifix, and candles using the three-period name lesson; to help the child participate more fully in the Liturgy; and to announce the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The children talk about eating a meal together at home and then move into discussion about sharing a special meal at church. The articles listed above are introduced, described, and placed in their appropriate locations on a small altar. As the crucifix is placed on the altar, they hear that Jesus invites us to the altar. The words "Christ has died. Christ has risen." are said. The children can work with the materials by setting the altar, pasting an altar collage, tracing pictures of the articles, or doing an individual art response.

**At Home:** Parents can point out the real articles during Mass and help the children practice saying these new words.

#### **GESTURE OF EPICLESIS:**

**Doctrinal Content:** Jesus, in the form of bread and wine, is the gift sent by God through the Holy Spirit. The working of the Trinity is concretized through this gesture.

**Direct Aims:** To isolate this moment of the Liturgy using the gesture as a "visible prayer" and presenting the Mass as the Sacrament of the Gift.

A simple altar is prepared with an altar cloth, chalice, and paten. The hands of the catechist are then raised slowly with reverence looking up. The hands are lowered over the bread and wine. This is done in a way so that the children do not look upon the catechist as a "priest" doing the actual gesture. Reflection is done on what the gesture makes us think of, what it means to the child, thinking about someone who wants to give us something, and where the gift comes from. The children can work with the materials or do an individual art response.

**At Home:** During Mass, point out the gesture of Epiclesis and talk about this wonderful gift from the Holy Spirit.

#### **GESTURE OF OFFERING**

**Doctrinal Content:** The offering up of prayer, giving thanks for the gifts of bread and wine transformed into "the body and blood" of Jesus, the perfect gift. Responding to and acknowledging God as giver of these gifts. Knowing God as Trinity (in the unity of the Holy Spirit). To help the child see this gesture as a complementary gesture (of the epiclesis).

**Direct Aims:** To isolate the liturgical sign or gesture of offering so the child connects the gifts from God and sees and participates in the response to these gifts.

The children prepare the table with a cloth, chalice, paten and paper host. They review the idea of what a gesture is. The gesture of epiclesis is recalled. The gesture of offering is presented slowly, standing and raising the chalice and paten with paper host over the head. The words used with the gesture, "Through him, and with him, and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever. Amen." are read. The two different movements are reflected upon as well as who is with Jesus and who is in Jesus. The children can work with the materials, make a booklet, or do an individual art response.

**At Home:** During Mass, point out the gesture of offering and talk about the gift from the Holy Spirit.