

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - LEVEL I – 2011-12 CYCLE A

Summary of Presentations for October 2010

INTRODUCTION TO THE ATRIUM:

Direct Aims: To help the children to understand what the atrium is and how to live in it, to help the children to become independent in their work, and to have a religious experience through order and silence.

The children will learn the atrium is a special place where we come to know Jesus and to work and speak with Him. The three-period name lesson is frequently used. The first time an item is introduced, it is shown and named. The second time, the adult names the item and the child points out which one it is. The third time, the child shows the item to the adult and names it. This third step may not occur for a number of years. In the atrium the children will learn to speak in a soft voice, move in a slow manner, how to carry a chair, how to put materials back on the shelf, how to sit at a table, and how to carry a mat and put it away.

At Home: Have the children demonstrate to you how they did this. Practice using a quiet voice and walking slowly at home.

PRISM FOOD DRIVE:

Kid-friendly foods are being collected October 9 and 16 in support of our neighbors in need.

PRACTICAL LIFE PRESENTATIONS:

Direct Aims: To help the child grow in independence and develop coordination of movement.

Practical Life exercises resemble ordinary household tasks that the children see every day at home or are tasks that aid in maintaining the atrium space. The children are introduced to several exercises they can practice: washing hands, pouring rice, polishing, pouring water, folding napkins, bean sorting, bead stringing, or putting puzzles together. Emphasis is on taking the work out, doing the work, and then returning the work to its designated space.

At Home: Continue to work with your child on any of the exercises done in the atrium to encourage independence and mastery of the environment.

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.