

## **CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD-LEVEL III 2011-12**

### **Summary of Presentations for September 2011**

#### **HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY:**

**Direct Aim:** Through praying the rosary, the Blessed Virgin Mary will lead us to a closer relationship with her Son, Jesus, and graces from God the Father.

The children hear background information about how the rosary became one of our prayers. A rosary is shown and explained to the children, and then the prayers are practiced. The mysteries are explored. Then the children pray a part of the rosary.

**At Home:** Pray a portion of the rosary at home and share what the experience was like. Come to Mass 15-20 minutes early and participate in the Rosary before Mass. Fourth graders and new students will receive a rosary and rosary booklet to take home.

#### **COMMUNAL PRAYER:**

**Doctrinal Content:** Prayer is listening and response.

**Direct Aims:** To support prayer with the help of a structure and to enrich it with new elements. Three children each week will prepare and lead Communal Prayer time.

**Presentation:** The children are shown the format for Communal Prayer, discuss what each element is, and in what order to do them.

- Introductory Formula
- Reading from the Bible
- Prayer Intentions
- A Song
- The Dismissal

Children then sign up and lead the closing Communal Prayer.

**At Home:** Share a time of prayer together as a family such as riding in the car (being thankful for the day and friends), at dinnertime (food and homes), or bedtime (keep me safe overnight). Create a daily ritual of praying together – some families end the dinner meal with each person mentioning something they are grateful for that day or to pray for someone special. The last person concludes that prayer with “Amen!”

#### **THE PLAN OF GOD:**

**Doctrinal Content:** God has an eternal plan which begins at creation and continues as man's gifts are passed from culture to culture. God makes a covenant with the people of Israel. Christ is born, dies, and is resurrected. This gives humankind a new Covenant which culminates in Parousia, when God will be all in all, uniting all peoples and things with himself in a cosmic communion of love.

**Direct Aims:** To show how God's plan of salvation is realized in human history. To announce and make visible God's plan for cosmic communion and its realization through people's work and through Christ in the Sacraments.

The Plan of God timeline and the three great moments (Creation, Redemption, and Parousia) are reviewed. Beginning with ancient peoples, the children hear how they made tools, the kind of work they did, the names of these peoples, the gifts they gave us, when Jesus was born, lived, and died, about the blank page (history that is yet to be written), and that time in the future called Parousia when God will be all in all.

Next, the Plan of God timeline is unrolled and review takes place about the many events that occurred and the cultures which rose, flourished, and declined. A separate timeline with minimal information on it is available to place pictures and text cards as the children process the information. The gift of the

Sacraments is discussed. The children work with the materials, do an individual drawing, or make their own timelines.

**At Home:** Ask your child what was most interesting about this presentation. Talk about how your family fits into the Plan of God by sharing old family photos and telling stories of the children's ancestors.

### **THE PLAN OF GOD BOOKLET**

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"In Christ, God has built a "bridge" that connects all of humankind with God! We call this the "New Covenant."

The children work with the materials, do an individual drawing, or make their own timelines.

**At Home:** Ask your child what was most interesting about this presentation. Talk about how your family fits into the Plan of God sharing examples of how each member co-creates with God in this time of the "blank page."

### **THE HOLY BIBLE - THE OPEN BOOK:**

**Doctrinal Content:** There is one God, one Book, one History.

**Direct Aims:** To show the unity of the story of the Kingdom of God, to show that the story of the Kingdom of God is in the Bible, and to show that there is one story found in one Book, the Bible.

The History of the Kingdom of God (the Fettuccia and Blue Strip from Level II) are recalled along with the three great moments - Creation - Redemption - Parousia. Text cards are handed out containing Scripture passages from the three great moments. The students read the passages and decide which heading they go under and what their order is. Reflection is done on how these passages all form one history, found in one book, The Bible. The students can work with the materials, copy individual Scriptures, or do an individual art response.

**At Home:** Find your families favorite passages in the Bible and see if your child can tell you which moment it involves.