

1415-4th Avenue West, Prince Albert, SK S6V 5H1

Fall 2010

From the Coordinator's Desk

Dear Catechists,

What a busy fall season it has been already. I was happy to see so many of you take the opportunity to attend the fall Diocesan Pastoral Study Days with Joanne Chafe. From all reports those present found the day to be worthwhile.

Then there has been the local Deanery Catechist Training Sessions, which have already taken place in four of our six deaneries. By all accounts, catechists have said that they have left energized and eager to pass on the faith to their students. A bag of resources, which contained items to enhance a catechesis or sacramental prep classroom, were given out at these sessions. If you were not able to attend the session in your deanery, please feel free to catch one of the last two. See page 2 of this newsletter for dates, times and locations.

Also in this newsletter you will find lists of resources. I think that one of the best kept secrets of our diocese is our resource centre. We have so many excellent books, DVDs and CDs that would be of use to catechists both for their personal faith journey and for their classrooms. I have been bringing these on the road with me and many have taken advantage of this opportunity to check them out. The resources listed in this edition of the newsletter focus on prayer, reconciliation, and craft ideas.

Two letters from Bishop Thévenot have been reprinted in the newsletter. The first is the letter that was read to the catechists on Catechetical Sunday, September 26th. In this letter, Bishop Thévenot emphasized that as teachers of catechesis our first tool is our own faith journey. We must, as he says, take opportunities to grow in our faith.

The second letter was to remind us that October is the month of the rosary. Information about

how to pray the rosary and a Q&A page about the rosary can be found on pages 7 to 9.

One of the new saints canonized on October 17 was Saint Brother André of Montreal. Information about Saint Brother André from the Bishops of Canada can be found on page 3. There is also a Q&A page about the saints on page 11 and a prayer service that can be used the week of All Souls Day on page 12.

Sometimes when we think about the saints, we imagine these extraordinary people. The truth is that the saints are very much like you and I.

As catechists, our lives witness to our students. This does not mean that we are called to be perfect. As witnesses of the gospel, we are not called to perfection but to faithfulness.

We are called to persevere in our following of Christ. When we stumble, and we all do, we are called to get up and keep going. That is the witness of faith we are to give to our students, our families, our friends...the world.

It sounds a bit beyond imagination but how I respond to my spouse who has had a bad day, my child who is so excited to tell me a story when I am most tired, the grocery clerk who is moving slowly when I am in a rush, my actions as an employee all of these are announcing the Kingdom of God. These actions are my witness. This is one area that the Church looks at when they look at the saints' lives, the ordinary living of the faith.

We are all called to lives of holiness. We are all called to be witnesses of the faith. We are all called to sainthood.

Leaving nothing undared for the Kingdom,
Christine Taylor



Table of contents

- Pg 2 Dates for catechist training
- Pg 3 News release from Canadian Bishops about Saint Brother Andre
- Pg 4 & 5 Letter from Bishop Thévenot to the catechists of the diocese and a blessing for the catechists to be read on catechetical Sunday
- Pg 6 Letter for the Bishop about the rosary
- Pg 7 & 8 Instructions on how to pray the rosary

Table of contents...

- Pg 9 Q&A on the Rosary
- Pg 10 Rosary activities for children
- Pg 11 Q&A about the Saints
- Pg 12 A Prayer for All Souls Day
- Pg 13 to 15 A Listing of Prayer Resources
- Pg 16 & 17 A Listing of Reconciliation Resources
- Pg 18 & 19 A Listing of Catechetical Activity Resources
- Pg 20 An article by Ron Rolheiser

Catechist Training Session - dates and places

Fall is here and many of you have started and/or are about to start your new catechesis and sacramental prep classes in your parishes. The feedback after the training sessions last spring indicated that people are looking for more practical 'how to' sessions on teaching the faith. This fall our training sessions will offer practical ideas with lots of good resources for catechists to take back to their classrooms (ONE SET OF RESOURCES WILL BE GIVEN OUT PER CLASSROOM — YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE THEM).

RESOURCES
Given Out

Who is invited? Children and Youth Teachers of Catechesis & Sacramental Prep.

What is the topic? Practical suggestions and ideas for passing the faith on to children.

Classroom ready
practical ideas

Where and when will these sessions be held?

Deanery 1: November 13th at St. Michael's Parish in Prince Albert 10 a.m. - noon.

(lunch to follow for those who RSVP to Christine by November 10th)

Deaneries 2, 3, 4, & 5: The training sessions in these deaneries ran in October. If you missed the session in your deanery you are welcome to come to the session in Prince Albert or in St. Walberg.

Deanery 6: Nov 20th at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in St. Walburg 10 a.m. - noon (lunch to follow for those who RSVP to Paula by Nov 17th)

If you are not able to attend your local training session, you are more than welcome to attend a training session in another deanery. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact either Christine Taylor the Diocesan Children's Catechist Coordinator at 922-4747x227 or cat.cecr@sasktel.net or your local Diocesan Children's Catechist Commission Representative...

Deanery 1 - Loretta Maltby 763-0414

Deanery 2 - Diane Merkosky 864-2824 or bdmerk@sasktel.net

Deanery 3 - Harriette Melin 232 5320 or pmelin@sasktel.net

Deanery 4 & 5 - please contact Christine at the diocese

Deanery 6 - Bernice Alger 236-1876

Looking forward to seeing you there:)

DID YOU KNOW . . . I was asked why we make the sign of the cross with the right hand? After looking high and low the best answer I could find was, tradition...this is just what we just do. If for whatever reason, a person is not able to use their right hand it is permissible to make the sign of the cross with the left hand.

“The Sign of the Cross is the fundamental act of our prayer, of Christian prayer. Making the Sign of the Cross — as we will do during the blessing — means saying a visible and public ‘yes’ to the One who died and rose for us, to God who in the humility and weakness of his love is the Almighty, stronger than all the power and intelligence of the world.” Benedict XVI

The following statement has been made by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops following the canonization of Saint Brother André on October 17, 2010.

(Rev.) Msgr. Patrick Powers, P.H.
General Secretary



The Church in Canada rejoices that one of our own, Brother André Bessette, 1845 – 1937, a lay member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, has now been recognized as Saint Brother André. He was a humble man, dedicated to serving the poor and the needy in Montreal during the early part of the 20th century. His witness is particularly important today for our society, when so many across our country are struggling, whether to find work and improve their life situations, or to find comfort in their physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual pain, or to find courage and encouragement in order to restore their appreciation of their own human dignity.

Just as Saint Brother André has helped many find healing and hope, the Catholic Bishops of Canada pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to raise up in our midst many generous men and women to bring comfort to the suffering and hopefulness to all who are isolated and vulnerable. We pray too that the example of Saint Brother André will help the young and all our society to appreciate better the special opportunities for generous service and holiness that are possible in dedication through the religious life.

In Saint Brother André there is a wonderful reminder of how the uneducated, the poor and those who are least visible in our communities can be such important forces of faith and goodness in our Church and in our society. No matter how unimportant or insignificant one's own life may seem, and despite all the obstacles that may confront us, God can make each of us an extraordinary witness through faith in him and charity toward our neighbour.

Saint Brother André, pray for us.

18 October 2010

Saint Brother Andre died on January 6th, 1937, at the age of 91. Over a million people filed passed his coffin. January 6th is his feast day.

An excellent exercise for the older children in your classes would be to look up some of the newspaper articles that have come out about Saint Brother Andre and then do some of their own research on the internet looking at Catholic sites. Suggestions of places to look are: http://www.saint-joseph.org/en_1078_index.php or http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=18. For younger children you could look up the stories yourself and share them with the children.

Prayer: Saint Brother Andre, your devotion to Saint Joseph is an inspiration to us. You gave your life selflessly to bring the message of his life to others. Pray that we may learn from Saint Joseph, and from you, what it is like to care for Jesus and do his work in the world. Amen

Diocese of Prince Albert
 OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



Diocèse de Prince Albert
 BUREAU DEL' EVEQUE

September 16, 2010

Dear fellow catechists,

Greetings of peace and love to you as we enter into the beauty of the fall season!

It is with great joy that I address you this day, as we begin a new teaching season. We are blessed in our diocese with many dedicated and faith filled catechists of children, youth and adults whose desire for God has called them to the ministry of teaching the faith.

I am very grateful for all you are doing in the instruction of faith to our children. As catechists you are called upon to first to teach the faith through your life witness. St. Francis of Assisi said, *"Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, sometimes use words."* Living out our faith in attitude of joy and happiness will help the children to see and understand faith as a gift from God.

Deepening and developing the understanding of our faith is also necessary to help us better explain our faith to those we are called to teach. Therefore, we should take opportunities to further educate ourselves about our faith. Let the Spirit guide you as you fulfill your calling as a catechist in your parish.

As we begin our pastoral year may the enthusiasm of sharing the faith be always present through the coming year.

Blessings and peace to your ministry!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Albert Thévenot M. Afr.
 Bishop of Prince Albert

Prayer for Catechists

Loving God,
in your goodness you provide for us
everything we need.
Thank you for these men and women
who have answered your call and who have
served this community as catechists.
They have been stewards
of all who pass through their care,
nurturing the faith of those they teach,
and helping them to grow
in love and understanding of you and your Church.
We ask that you continue to strengthen them for their labors,
and that you bless them
with wisdom, patience, and understanding.
Open our eyes, that we may see you in their witness;
our ears, that we may hear you in their words;
and our hearts that our faith may grow stronger
through their efforts.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen.

Diocese of Prince Albert

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



Diocèse de Prince Albert

BUREAU DEL' EVEQUE

September 16, 2010

To all pastors, liturgical representatives and to all the faithful of the diocese of Prince Albert,

Greetings of peace and love to you all!

On Wednesday, September 15th we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. This is always a reminder to us that the month of September is almost over and October will soon be upon us.

According to the tradition of the Church, October has been set aside as the Month of the Holy Rosary. Let us remember that the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on the 7th day of October.

As I did last May, I would like to encourage the devotion to the Holy Rosary and for us to meditate on the mysteries in the life of Christ. As we deepen our understanding of our faith in the Lord, through the help of Mary, our world will change and so will our lives.

First of all, I would like that we pray during this month for all of our farmers who as you all know are very much in need of our prayers.

Secondly, I would like that we pray to our Holy Father, that the Lord will give us strength to face the unique challenges of our time.

Let us pray for peace. That peace may be brought to our world through justice, respect and understanding. Let us ask Mary, through the Lord, to bestow healing hands upon our lives, families and our church.

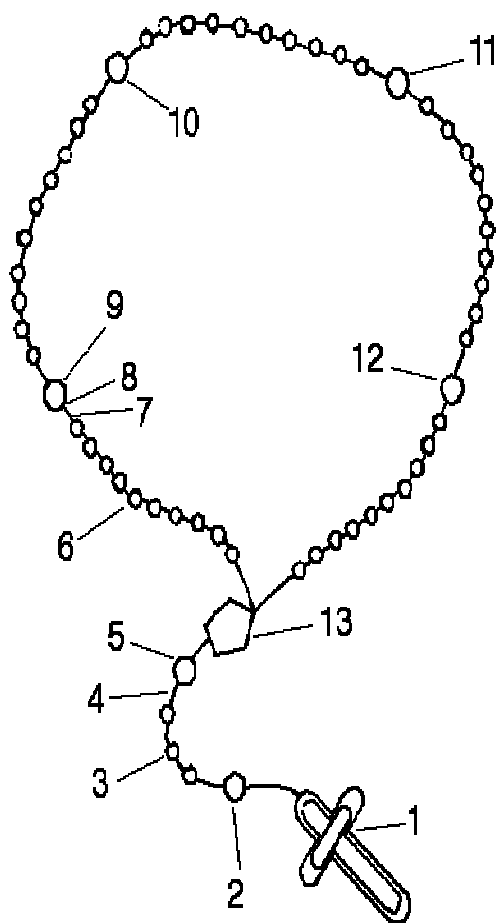
And let us pray for our priests, pastors of our parishes, and our seminarians that upon hearing the call to priesthood, they are faithful to it.

In closing, let us continue to pray for one another, to be one in Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Albert Thévenot M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert

These are the steps to praying the Rosary, using your rosary and these corresponding numbers (thanks to domestic-church.com):



1. Make the *Sign of the Cross* and say *The Apostle's Creed*
2. Say the *Our Father*
3. Say three *Hail Marys* for the intention of an increase of Faith, Hope and Charity
4. Say the *Glory Be to the Father*, and one *O, My Jesus*
5. Announce the First Mystery, then say the *Our Father*
6. Say ten *Hail Marys*
7. Say the *Glory Be to the Father*
8. Say the *O My Jesus*
9. Announce the Second Mystery, then say the *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys*, one *Glory Be* and *O My Jesus*
10. Announce the Third Mystery, then say the *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys*, one *Glory Be* and *O My Jesus*
11. Announce the Fourth Mystery, then say the *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys*, one *Glory Be* and *O My Jesus*
12. Announce the Fifth Mystery, then say the *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys*, one *Glory Be* and *O My Jesus*
13. Conclude by reciting the *Hail Holy Queen* and making the *Sign of the Cross*.

The person who is leading the rosary says the first half of the prayer and those following respond with the second half of the prayer. The prayers for the rosary are printed out on the back of this sheet. The point where the prayers have been traditionally divided is indicated with a ***.

The Luminous Mysteries (Thursday)

The Baptism in the Jordan
 The Wedding at Cana
 The Proclamation of the Kingdom
 The Transfiguration
 The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday & Friday)

The Agony in the Garden - contrition for our sins
 The Scourging at the Pillar—
 mortification of our senses
 The Crowning with Thorns - interior mortification
 The carrying of the cross - patience under cross
 The crucifixion and death of Our Lord -
 dying to self
 The Crowning of our Blessed Mother in Heaven -
 eternal happiness

The Joyful Mysteries (Monday & Saturday)

The Annunciation - humility
 The Visitation - charity
 The Birth of Our Lord -
 poverty or detachment from the world
 The Presentation of Our Lord -
 purity of heart/obedience
 The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple - piety

The Glorious Mysteries (Sunday and Wednesday)

The Resurrection - conversion of heart
 The Ascension - a desire for heaven
 The Gift of the Holy Spirit -
 the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 The Assumption of our Blessed Mother into
 Heaven - greater devotion to our Blessed Mother

PRAYERS USED WHEN PRAYING THE ROSARY

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. *** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life ever-lasting. Amen

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. *** Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. *** Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *** As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

O My Jesus (said together)

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

Hail, Holy Queen

(The first part of this prayer is said together. Then, if there is someone leading the Rosary, they will say part V, and everyone will say part R. If by yourself, you would say both)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement!, O loving!, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.



Questions and Answers about the Rosary...

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE ROSARY? Originally the rosary had 150 beads, the same number of psalms in the bible. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 Psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. (This practice of reciting the 150 Psalms within a four-week cycle continues today in monastic communities who pray the six hours of the office of the Church. Today, many clergy, religious and laity will pray the morning and evening office only.) People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in this practice, so praying on a string of 150 beads or knots began as a parallel to praying the psalms.

The origin of our modern day Marian rosary was probably in fourteenth century England where the Carthusian Heinrich Eggar claimed to have had a vision of Mary in which she asked him to say an Our Father and ten Hail Mary's and to repeat this fifteen times. This devotion spread widely throughout England. The origin of the rosary devotion would not be complete without a word about the Dominicans. The Dominicans propagated the rosary by founding rosary societies in which the only membership requirements were to sign your name and to pray. Many lay people joined these societies, and Marian devotion grew throughout Europe.

HOW WAS THE ROSARY FIRST PRAYED? A person would pass their fingers over each bead, as we do today, and say a prayer, usually the Our Father. The Hail Mary as we know it today was not even around at that time.

WHEN DID THE HAIL MARY COME INTO EXISTANCE? The origin of the Hail Mary prayer itself was something called the Little Office of Our Lady that grew popular in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, where the words of the angel Gabriel were said as an antiphon. Eventually it followed the way of the psalms and the Our Father and began to be repeated by itself in groups of fifty.

WHEN WAS THE ROSARY FORMED AS WE KNOW IT TODAY? The structure of the rosary gradually evolved between the 12th and 15th centuries. Eventually 50 Hail Marys were recited and linked with verses of psalms or other phrases evoking the lives of Jesus and Mary. During the 16th century, the structure of the five-decade rosary based on the three sets of mysteries prevailed.

WHY IS THE ROSARY CALLED THE ROSARY? I found two different explanations. First, during the middle ages, this prayer form became known as the rosarium ("rose garden"), actually a common term to designate a collection of similar material, such as an anthology of stories on the same subject or theme. Second, the name comes from Italian *rosario*, meaning "crown of roses". In her apparition at Fatima in 1917, the Virgin Mary revealed that every time a Hail Mary is recited, is like a rose was offered Her, so a complete Rosary is like a crown of roses. (This idea of a Rosary being a crown predates Fatima by centuries, and was expressed on several occasions by mediaeval Catholics, notably St. Louis de Montfort in his promotional book *Secrets of the Rosary*.)

WHEN WE PRAY THE ROSARY ARE WE PRAYING TO MARY? No. We are asking Mary to pray for us, to intercede for us – just like we would ask a friend to pray for us, except we are asking the Mother of God to pray for us. The rosary is not a prayer to Mary. Rather it is a meditative prayer reflecting on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

WHY DO WE CALL MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD? About 400 years after the death of Jesus there was much dispute about his divinity. One of the ways that this was addressed at the Council in Ephesus in 431 CE was to give Mary the title of *Theotokos* or God Bearer. Jesus is God. Mary is the bearer or Mother of God.



Activities to help children learn about Mary...

A Heart Like Mary...

Mary has a loving heart. We too can have a heart like Mary's. Invite the children to perform acts of love and service throughout the month of October. Each time they come to class have them fill out (on a heart) the acts of love and service they did that week. Display the hearts on a bulletin board in the Church or create a collage with them — encourage the children to do enough acts of love and service during October to fill up the space designated for the hearts.

Some suggested acts of love and service...

- bake cookies for someone who could use some cheering up
- Help someone clean up their yard
- Visit a grandparent
- Say one decade of the rosary a week for the needs of others.

Rosary Walk or Circle...

Pray the rosary as a group while going for a walk. Begin praying one or two decades (with younger children). It would be best if each child had a rosary.

You could form a living rosary - print cards with the different prayers on the — I Believe, Glory Be to God, Our Father and Hail Mary (ten times) - have the children stand in a circle and each be a part of the rosary.

Poster with a Purpose...

Read: Luke 1.26-38.

Materials: Large sheet of white paper for each participant, watercolor paints (& paint brushes) or markers, special craft items such as glitter glue, foam or other trims.

Activity: Paint the word "YES LORD!" on the large sheet of paper. Decorate the poster with special craft items. Put the posters up in the common area of the church.

The Mysteries of the Rosary...

Teach children to pray the rosary. Include in this activity teaching the mysteries of the rosary. Explain that the mysteries of the rosary tell us about different aspects of Jesus' life. Have the children draw a picture of one of the mysteries.

The Luminous Mysteries (Thursday)

- The Baptism in the Jordan
- The Wedding at Cana
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- The Transfiguration
- The Institution of the Eucharist

The Joyful Mysteries (Monday & Saturday)

- The Annunciation - humility
- The Visitation - charity
- The Birth of Our Lord - poverty or detachment from the world
- The Presentation of Our Lord - purity of heart/obedience
- The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple - piety

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday & Friday)

- The Agony in the Garden - contrition for our sins
- The Scourging at the Pillar, mortification of our senses
- The Crowning with Thorns - interior mortification
- The carrying of the cross - patience under crosses
- The crucifixion and death of Our Lord - dying to self
- The Crowning of our Blessed Mother in Heaven
- - eternal happiness

The Glorious Mysteries (Sunday and Wednesday)

- The Resurrection - conversion of heart
- The Ascension - a desire for heaven
- The Gift of the Holy Spirit - the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven - greater devotion to our Blessed Mother

**This page is a repeat from the 2009 May newsletter.

Questions and Answers about Saints...

How many saints are there? It is impossible to arrive at a definite number. However, more than 10, 000 saints have been recorded in various historical records during the Church's history.

How is the feast day of a Saint determined? For the vast majority, saint's feast days are the anniversary of the day they died. This date is chosen as a sort of birthday because it is the first day of their new life in Heaven with God. (Saint Brother Andre who was recently canonized has his feast day on January 6th, the day of his passing.) The saint remains alive and still offers us their friendship. Death is not the end of them, and it won't be for us either.

What is the communion of saints? In the Creed, which we recite each week, we profess our belief in the communion of saints. The communion of saints is the Church. The Church is the communion of holy people, living and dead (both those in heaven and those in purgatory). We, the Church, believe that the communion of saints is most fully expressed and experienced during the Mass – especially at the Consecration and at Holy Communion. We believe that heaven and earth are united at this time.



Who are the saints? We believe that the saints are ordinary folks – with faults and failures, gifts and vices – who made it into heaven not by being perfect but by being faithful (persevering in their faith). As Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “We aren't called to be successful; rather God calls each of us to be faithful.” Saints are sinners who never gave up and never quit on God.

Why do we ask the saints to pray for us? As already noted, we believe in life after death and that saints are those people who never quit in their relationship with God. Our belief in the communion of saints (as defined above) gives us access to ask those recognized as Saints to pray for us. “Their intercession is the most exalted service to God's plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2683)

Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you more effectively than during my life. (Saint Dominic, to his fellow brothers)

I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth. (Saint Therese of Lisieux)

Put simply, we ask the saints to pray for us the same way we would ask a good friend to do so.

What is the intent behind All Saints Day? On the solemnity of All Saints Day, the Church celebrates the saints' lives of holiness.

What is the intent behind All Souls Day? On this day, we pray for all who have died, asking that God, in his great mercy, will forgive any wrongs they have done in their lives and invite them to join the saints in heaven.

Information for this page was taken from: *The Catholic connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers*, Saint Mary's Press, 2009 and *Catholicism for Dummies*, Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2003.

A Prayer for the Week of November 1

Remembering All Who Have Died

Introduction: This week in the Church, we have two important celebrations...All Saints Day and All Souls Day. On All Saints Day, we celebrate the saints' lives of holiness. On All Souls Day, we pray for all who have died, asking that God, in his great mercy, will forgive any wrong they have done in their lives and invite them to join the saints in Heaven. We believe that those who have died are still with us...they are part of the communion of saints. Even though we can not see them, we can talk with them and we can ask them to pray for us as we pray for them. Today, we are going to take time to pray for are family and friends who have died and joined God in heaven.

Leader: Let us begin our prayer, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray the psalm response: They will receive blessings from the Lord.

All: They will receive blessings from the Lord.

Leader: The earth is the Lord's as is all that is in it and those who live in it.

All: They will receive blessings from the Lord.

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Saint John

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us now remember family members and friends who have died. After, we say their name we will all respond 'present' (i.e., Grandma Simonson...present; Uncle Joe...present)

(The leader begins, then pauses so others may add names too. Once the last name is spoken and a long enough pause has been made for anyone else to speak, continue...)

Leader: Let us now pray for those who have we have named and those we remember in our hearts.

All: Our Father who are in heaven...

Leader: O Lord God, almighty,
we ask you to bring these
and all your departed children
into the glorious Light of your presence.

(pause)

Lord, what tender care you have for all your creatures!

You are higher than our minds can wonder,
deeper than we can imagine,
but you care for each of us as your own dear children!

Help us to see one another through your eyes

so that one day, with all the saints in heaven,
we, and all those we love, may see your face.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

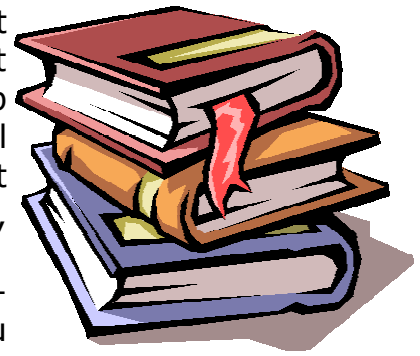
All: Amen

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

A song could be sung after the introduction and at the end of the prayer...*Sing with All the Saints in Glory* or *City of God* or other appropriate song.

This page has been adapted from *Children's Daily Prayers 2008-2009*, page 83.

I sometimes think that the Diocesan Resource Centre is our best kept secret. There are so many resources (Books, DVD's, Videos, CDs) that catechists would find of use for catechesis and sacramental prep classes; as well as, items to enhance their own faith journey. This fall while giving the Deanery Catechist Training Sessions, I have brought boxes resources for the classroom focused on Activity Ideas, Prayer, Reconciliation, and Advent/Christmas.



For catechists who made use of this travelling library, I want to remind you that the library has a **4 week borrowing time**. If you would like to keep the resources for a bit longer than that, please contact the Diocesan Resource Centre at (306)922-4747x229 or res.cecr@sasktel.net and request an extension. Remember also that many folks travel back and forth between Prince Albert and your home town. Anyone can return material to the Resource Centre and even pick it up for you. The hours of operation at the Resource Centre are Monday - Friday 9:15 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4:30 p.m.



For those of you who were not able to come to the training sessions and or have not had the training session in your deanery yet, I have supplied a list of the resources available in three of the four areas. The Advent/Christmas resources will be listed in the Advent/Christmas newsletter.

If you are looking for items under another topic please go to the Diocesan Resource Centre page on the website (www.padiocese.ca) and under resources and programs click on library search. You will find that you are able to search the resources by title, author, category or subject.

BOOK	Sub-Title	Barcode	Call #1		
20 More Teen Prayer Services		31511000094333	264 .7	REG	
30 Rituals & Prayer Services	For Catechist and Teacher Meetings	31511000122720	264 .7	BER	
Children's liturgies	74 Eucharistic liturgies, prayer services, and penance services	31511000009885	264 .0203	KEN	
Increase Our Faith, Year C	Parish Prayer Services for Whole Com. Catechesis	31511000152826	264.7	HAA	c.1
Speak , Lord, Your Servant is Listening	Prayers and Devotions for Youth	31511000172659	YM 248.48	PRA	
150 Opening and Closing Prayers		31511000094432	264.7	KOC	
20 More Teen Prayer Services		31511000024363	YM 264.7	REG	
25 guided prayer services for middle graders		31511000034057	YM 264.7	DEX	
30 Ten-Minute Prayer Celebrations	For Preschool & Kindergarten Children	31511000175991	264 .6	REP	
600 Blessings and Prayers	From Around the World	31511000182039	242	DUN	
A Prayer Book for Catholic Families		31511000006923	242	PRA	
Advent Arts and Christmas Crafts	Prayers and Rituals for Family, School, and Church	31511000038819	263 .91	HEI	
Advent is for Children	Stories, Activities, Prayers		263 .91	Kel	
As we Gather, as we P	150 New Opening and Closing Prayers	31511000124833	242	KOC	
Best of Holy Days & Holidays, The	Prayer Celebrations with Children	31511000038835	264.6	CRO	
Bless This Day	150 Everyday Prayers for Grades 1 to 5	31511000131499	268 .3	MAT	
Blessing Candles	58 Simple Mealtime Prayer-Celebrations,	31511000059138	242	CRO	
Blessing Cup, The	24 Family Prayer-Celebrations	31511000096783	242	TRA	
Blessings and Prayers	For Home and Family	31511000166743	242	CCCB	
Catholic Youth Prayer Book		31511000150440	242 .83	CAT	
Celebrating holidays	20 classroom stories, activities, prayer services	31511000013531	264 .7	SCH	
Children, imagination and prayer	creative techniques for middle grade students	31511000011584	268 .433	DEX	
Classroom Prayer Services	For the Days of Advent and Lent	31511000032044	263 .91	COS	
Classroom Prayer Services	For the Days of Advent and Lent	31511000043215	263 .92	COS	
Day by Day through Lent	Reflections, Prayers, Practices	31511000176197	263 .92	LOW	

S O U R C E S R E V I S I T

P r a y e r R e s o u r c e s

BOOK	Sub-Title	Barcode	Call #1		
Day by Day with God	Prayer Book for Children	31511000128974	242.82	DAR	
Dear God	Prayers for Families With Children	31511000024454	242	FIN	
Everyday prayers for teens		31511000034263	YM	242	EVE
Faith Difference, The	Prayers, Lessons, Activities & Games	31511000169226	YM	259.23	SAW
Family Book of Prayer		31511000004589	242	FAM	
Family Prayer for Family Times	Traditions, Celebrations, and Rituals	31511000024447	242	CHE	
Gathering Prayers		31511000002856	264.7	HIN	
Gift of Prayer, The	Embracing the Sacred in the Everyday	31511000007822	242	SIL	
God of my heart	a prayer book for youth	31511000034271	YM	242	GOD
Gospel Prayers		31511000002898	268	.3	SIN
Gospel Scenes for teens : 23 guided prayer meditations		31511000090893	808	.2	SCH
How do I Talk to God	Prayers for the School Year	31511000059120	YM	259.1	GAR
Imaginative Prayer for Youth Ministry		31511000169267	YM	242	OES
In My Heart Room	16 Love Prayers for Little Children	31511000072743	268	.3	DON
Increase Our Faith, Year A	Parish Prayer Services for Com. Catechesis	31511000128164	264.7	HAA	c.1
Jesus Among Us	Daily Advent Prayers for Families		263	.9	Cos
Jesus, Can I Talk with You?	A Prayer Journal for Kids	31511000156165	268	.3	VAR
Journey with Jesus: Family Prayers for Lent, A		31511000072735	263.92	COS	
Lent Is for Children	Stories, Activities, Prayers	31511000038397	263	.92	KEL
Lord's prayer, The	Matthew 6:5-14; Luke 11:1-4 for children	31511000089630	220	.9505	BAD
Marian Year Prayers.		31511000007939	232.91	MAR	
Novenas	Prayers of Intercession and Devotion	31511000156702	242	NOV	
One-Minute Prayers	For Men	31511000008168	242	LYD	
Our Father	Jesus Jubilee Prayer	31511000059310	268	.3	MIT
Out of the Ordinary	Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season	31511000071299	242	RUP	
Painting Rainbows with Broken Crayons	101 Prayers for Teachers, Parents and Other Caretak-ers	31511000002757	268.2	SNY	
Prayer First!	A New Agenda for Catholic Schools	31511000092733	242	GLA	
Prayer ideas	for ministry with young teens	31511000127810	259	.23	HEL
Prayer Services for Catechist & Teacher Meet-ings		31511000024355	264	.7	COS
Prayer Services for Religious Educators		31511000009448	264	.7	COS
Prayer Services for Teens		31511000051333	YM	242	DOT
Prayer services for young adolescents		31511000030378	268	.433	COS
Prayers before an awesome God	the Psalms for teenagers	31511000050772	YM	242	HAA
Prayers for a Child's Day		31511000128602	242.62	DER	
Prayers for Growing and Other Pains	More Family Prayers	31511000003904	242	HIN	
Prayers for little people		31511000132125	242	.62	FLE
Prayers of Blessing and Praise	For All Occasions	31511000182047	242	SCH	
Prayers, Activities, Celebrations and More	For Catholic Families	31511000004621	300	MEE	
Prove it!	prayer	31511000120476	YM	242	WEL
Psalm prayers		31511000000900	223	.2	Haa
Quiet Places with Jesus	40 Guided Imagery Meditations for Personal Prayer	31511000003797	242	POW	
Saints for Children	Stories, Activities, Prayer Services	31511000032986	268	.3	GLA
Sharing Prayer	Simple Formats for Small Groups	31511000003706	242	TAY	
Shorter morning and evening prayer, A		31511000008127	264	.028	Sho
Sing a song of gladness	prayer reflections on selected Psalms for--children	31511000048149	220	.9505	SIN
Spirit and song : a seeker's guide for liturgy and prayer.		31511000092444	SM	783	.2
Stories of Saints Through the Centuries	Reflections, Prayers and Activities for Religion Teach-ers	31511000038843	268	.3	NEU
Teach Us How to Pray	A Beginner's Book of Prayers and Meditations	31511000067065	268	.434	COL

BOOK	Sub-Title	Barcode	Call #1		
Teaching Sacraments and Seasons	Reflections, Prayers & Activities for Religion Teachers	31511000112465	268.2	SCH	
Teen Prayer Services	20 Themes for Reflection	31511000024298	YM 242	REG	
Thank You for This Day	Action Prayers, Songs, and Blessings for Every Day	31511000131895	268 .3	ONE	
The Prayer Journey	Jump Starts for Catechists	31511000152222	CAT 268	BER	
Total Catechesis: Christian Prayer		31522000127593	YM 268.6	TOT	
Total Youth Ministry: Prayer and Worship	Prayer and Worship	31511000127638	YM 248	.8	
Turn to Me	40 Reconciliation Prayer Services for Children	31511000035203	268 .166	PEN	
Walking With the Saints	Advent Prayers for Families	31511000007301	263 .9	Cos	
Ways to Pray with Children	Prayers, Services & Activities	31511000024249	264.6	BRE	
Weekly Prayer Services for Teenagers	Lectionary-Based for the School Year,	31511000024306	YM 264.7	SCH	
DVD	Sub-Title	Barcode	cat #		
Best Friends		31511000130004	D 249	PRA	
Holy Baby!	Seven Prayers in Seven Languages	31511000172030	DVD 249	PRA	
How to Pray	Prayer Bear - 2	31511000129998	D 249	PRA	
Prayer DVD with Leader's Guide	Does It Make Any Difference?	31511000166503	DVD 249	YAN	
Time to Pray	Prayer Bear 3	31511000145424	249 PRA	V-3	
What Catholics Believe About Prayer		31511000156512	DVD 249	WHA	
CD	Sub-Title	Barcode	cat #		
Psalms, The	A Model and Guide to Prayer	31511000180462	CDBK 220.7	GUI	
Prayer Services for Children		31511000156678	CD 248.63	PRA	
Prayer services for teens		31511000152560	C 248	63	
Spirit and song : a seeker's guide for liturgy and prayer.		31511000092451	CD 783	.2	
VIDEO	Sub-Title	Barcode	cat #		
Angel's Prayer Lesson, The		31511000131531	V 249	COS	
Best Friends	Prayer Bear	31511000047380	V 249	PRA	
How to Pray	Prayer Bear - 2	31511000052224	V 249	PRA	
Prayer		31511000021633	V 248	.83	
Prayer in Your Home		31511000017771	V 249	PRA	
Prayers for little children		31511000054386	V 249	PRA	
Prayertime, Familytime		31511000017722	V 250	CHE	
Sing-A-Long Prayers	with Li'l Angelina	31511000147735	249 PRA	c.1	
Time to Pray	Prayer Bear - 3	31511000047372	V 249	PRA	
What Catholics Believe About Prayer		31511000022201	V 249	WHA	

Prayer Resources



BOOKS		Barcode	Call #				
Jesus gives us peace	the sacrament of reconciliation	Dumont, Claire		264	.02086	.22	DUM
Living Reconciliation : Child and Parent Book		Darcy-Berube, Françoise		268	.411	Dar	
Befriending the Earth	A Theology of Reconciliation between Humans and the Earth	Berry, Thomas Mary	31511000006881	261	0.8	0.88	BER
Masses with Children	Masses of Reconciliation		31511000007905	264	0.5	0.5	MAS
Reconciliation	The Continuing Agenda		31511000008143	234	.166	REC	
Removing the barriers : the practice of reconciliation		Dallen, James	31511000009034	265	.6	Dal	
At Home with the Sacraments	Reconciliation	Bowman, Peg	31511000010032	268	.166	BOW	
Ricky's First Reconciliation		Costello, Gwen	31511000010123	268	.411	Cos	
Peace - Teacher's Annotated Edition	A catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Killgallon, James J.	31511000010297	268	.166	KIL	
Peace - Participant's Book	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Killgallon, James J.	31511000010305	268	.166	KIL	
Forgiveness : Teacher's Annotated Edition	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Killgallon, James J.	31511000010313	268	.166	KIL	
Forgiveness : Participant's Book	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Killgallon, James J.	31511000010321	268	.166	KIL	
Love - Participant's Book	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Weber, Rev. Gerard P.	31511000010347	268	.166	LOV	
Love - Teacher's Annotated Edition	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation		31511000010354	268	.166	LOV	
Peace - Family Handbook	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Whitaker, Helen	31511000010446	268	.166	WHI	
Forgiveness : Family Handbook	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Whitaker, Helen	31511000010453	268	.166	WHI	
Love - Family Handbook	A Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Whitaker, Helen	31511000010461	268	.166	WHI	
At Home with the Sacraments	Reconciliation	Bowman, Peg	31511000021864	268	.166	BOW	
Reconciliation	a user's manual	Prieur, Michael R.	31511000093020	234	.166	PRI	
Reconciliation	A Biblical Call	Stuhlmüller, Carroll	31511000029677	234	0.16	0.6	STU
Turn to Me	40 Reconciliation Prayer Services for Children	Fearon, RSM, Sr. Mary	31511000035203	268	.166	PEN	
Catechesis on Reconciliation, A Sign of Reconciliation and Conversion		CCCB	31511000052612	268	CCC		
Reconciliation and penance in the mission of the Church		Hellwig, Monika K.	31511000066372	234.	166	HEL	
On reconciliation and penance: in the mission of the church			31511000072107	REF	262	.9	REC
Penance and reconciliation		Brennan, Patrick J.	31511000074863	234	.166	BRE	
We Celebrate Reconciliation	The Good Shepherd	Brusselmans, Christiane	31511000090752	268	.166	BRU	
We Celebrate Reconciliation Celebrations	The Lord Forgives	Brusselmans, Christiane	31511000090760	268	.166	BRU	
Your Child's First Confession	Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation		31511000090810	268	.166	REC	
First Reconciliation	Reproducible Game, Crafts, Activities for Young Children	O'Connor, Francine M.	31511000092436	268	.166	OCO	
A Way of Reconciliation for Teens	Praying the Stations	Rainone, Colleen D.	31511000108745	YM	242	RAI	

C a t h o l i c a n A c t i v i t y B o o k

BOOK TITLE	Sub-Title	Barcode	Call #1	Call #2	Call #3
**Games for Church Groups	Primary	31511000058262	268	.3	TUC
Stories to Tell	And How to Tell Them	31511000038827	268	.3	CRE
100 Fun Ways to Livelier Lessons		31511000024330	268	.3	INK
38 Recipes	For Bulletin Boards and Art Projects	31511000011493	268.3	STA	
52 Crafts for the Christian Year		31511000036466	268.3	SCO	
70 Sacrament Starters for Children	And Those Who Teach Them	31511000088616	268	.3	MAT
A Journey with Jesus	Stories from the Bible	31511000055912	268	.3	ACT
Acting Out the Miracles and Parables	52- Minute Plays for Education and Wor-	31511000122712	268.3	GLA	
Beatitudes, The		31511000058254	268	.3	WHI
Bible Story: Mini-books		31511000058213	268	.3	KIE
Bible Word Search	New Testament	31511000058247	268	.3	JAC
Bible-Based Word Games		31511000058221	268	.3	STA
Big Book of Catholic Customs and Traditions	For Children's Faith Formation	31511000176635	268.3	BRA	
Big Book of Ideas for Children's Faith Formation	Fun Activities, Projects, Crafts	31511000116003	268.3	MCN	
Bless This Day	150 Everyday Prayers for Grades 1 to 5	31511000131499	268	.3	MAT
Building My Moral Life	Basic Catholic Teachings	31511000055979	268	.3	ACT
Caring for God's Creation	Precious Gift, Precious Duty	31511000055904	268	.3	ACT
Celebrating the Liturgical Year	Special Seasons, Special Feasts	31511000056001	268	.3	ACT
Celebration Times	Feasts and Seasons of the Church Year	31511000055920	268	.3	ACT
Children Celebrate: 39 Plays for Feasts		31511000049451	268	.3	LAN
Children Discover the Mass		31511000128909	268.3	DAL	
Children of the Bible.		31511000057868	268	.3	KIN
Children's Book of Table Blessings		31511000131663	268	.3	KEN
Child's Play	15 Scripture Passages	31511000014034	268.3	GAM	
Christmas Programs for the Church		31511000129006	263	FIT	
Clown Ministry Handbook, The		31511000013986	268.3	LIT	
Commandments, The	God's Plan for Our Happy Lives	31511000055995	268	.3	ACT
Create and Celebrate	A Book of Simple Crafts	31511000013804	268.3	VIE	
Divine Comedies	Plays for Christian Theatre	31511000125053	268.3	WIL	
Easiest Gospel Plays Ever		31511000014067	268.3	SCH	
Echo Stories for Children	Celebrating Saints and Seasons in Word and Action	31511000036656	268	.3	ZYR
Exploring My Catholic Church	Familiar People, Places, and Things	31511000055896	268	.3	ACT
Exploring the Sacraments	Celebrating with Jesus	31511000056019	268	.3	ACT
Games for church groups	Junior	31511000058270	268	.3	SEN
Gospel Plays for Students	36 Scripts for Education and Worship	31511000014059	268	.3	GLA
Gospel Prayers		31511000002898	268	.3	SIN
Gospel Theater for the Whole Community	92 plays for Education and Worship	31511000152677	268.3	GLA	c. 1
Growing Up A Friend Of Jesus	A Guide to Discipleship for Children	31511000144609	268	.3	DAR
Guided Meditations for Children	How to Teach Children to Pray Using	31511000034040	268	.3	REE
Guided Meditations for Children 2	How to Teach Children to Pray Using Scripture	31511000057942	268	.3	REE
Halloween Alternatives	Parties for Home or Classroom	31511000036474	268.3	FLA	
Holidays and Celebrations	Activities, Crafts and Stories for Children	31511000011519	268.3	TIE	
I Want to Be Jesus	Over 150 Easy-to-Use Gospel Plays for Children	31511000049303	268	.3	TWO



BOOK TITLE	Sub-Title	Barcode	Call #1	Call #2	Call #3
In My Heart Room	16 Love Prayers for Little Children	31511000072743	268	.3	DON
Interactive Story-Telling	Ideas for Teachers	31511000049246	268	.3	HAA
Jesus, Can I Talk with You?	A Prayer Journal for Kids	31511000156165	268	.3	VAR
Knowing My Church	What Makes Us Catholic	31511000055961	268	.3	ACT
Lectionary-Based Gospel Dramas	For Advent, Christmas and Epiphany	31511000057884	268	.3	OCO
Let's Play a Story		31511000011246	268.3	ALL	
Let's Pray	Catholic Prayers and the Mass	31511000055870	268	.3	ACT
Many Saints, Many Ways	Multiple Intelligences Activities for Grades 1 to 6	31511000122696	268	.3	WEZ
My Favorite Jesus Activity Book		31511000108232	268	.3	ERI
Our Father	Jesus Jubilee Prayer	31511000059310	268	.3	MIT
Puppet Plays	For New Creatures	31511000014018	268.3	WEI	
Quick Crafts	For Sunday School Teachers	31511000013762	268.3	SHO	
Reader's Theater	Bible-Based Dramas Old Testament	31511000057835	268	.3	DON
Sacraments, The	Walking with Jesus	31511000055938	268	.3	ACT
Saints for Children	Stories, Activities, Prayer Services	31511000032986	268	.3	GLA
Saints to Lead Me	Feast Days Through the Year	31511000055946	268	.3	ACT
Saints, The	21 Models for Good living	31511000055953	268	.3	ACT
Scripture Safari	Director's Guide and Resource Book	31511000000553	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 1	Participant's Manual	31511000000421	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 1	Teacher's Manual	31511000000496	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 2	Participant's Manual	31511000000439	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 2	Teacher's Manual	31511000000504	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 3	Participant's Manual	31511000000447	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 3	Teacher's Manual	31511000000512	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 4	Participant's Manual	31511000000454	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 4	Teacher's Manual	31511000000520	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 5	Participant's Manual	31511000000462	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 5	Teacher's manual	31511000000538	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 6	Participant's Manual	31511000000470	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari Gr. 6	Teacher's Manual	31511000000546	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari K	Teacher's Manual	31511000000413	268	.3	GOO
Scripture Safari K	Participant's Manual	31511000000488	268	.3	GOO
Send in His Clowns		31511000013994	268	.3	PER
Show Me a Story!	Visual Aids for Telling Stories	31511000128982	268.3	STO	
Snip & Tell Bible Stories	Simple Paper Cutouts that Unfold as the Story is Told	31511000115997	268	.3	HEN
Stories of Everyday Saints	40 Stories with Bible Links and Related Activities	31511000125129	268	.3	HEL
Stories of Saints Through the Centuries	Reflections, Prayers and Activities for Religion Teachers	31511000038843	268	.3	NEU
Sure Can Use a Little Good News	12 Gospel Plays in Rhyme	31511000040914	268	.3	BUR
Teaching the Rosary with Foam Puppets		31511000172527	268.3	PAL	
Thank You for This Day	Action Prayers, Songs, and Blessings for Every Day	31511000131895	268	.3	ONE
Understanding and Using the Bible	Hands-On Scripture Study	31511000055987	268	.3	ACT
We Worship and Pray	The Mass and Traditional Catholic	31511000056027	268	.3	ACT
Worship Through the Seasons	Ideas for Celebration	31511000024173	268.3	HOC	

C
a
t
h
o
l
i
c
a
i
A
c
t
i
v
i
t
y
b
o
o
k
s

The Anthropological Function of Gossip

Ron Rolheiser produces a weekly column, which appears in over 60 newspapers one of them being the Prairie Messenger. Below is one of his columns from 2002-11-02. To read more of his articles go to <http://www.ronrolheiser.com>.

In his novel, *OSCAR AND LUCINDA*, Peter Carey, offers this colourful image of gossip. In a small town there are rumours about the priest and a particular young woman. Here's the image:

"The vicar of Woolahra then took her shopping and Society, always feeling shopping to be the most intimate activity, was pleased to feel the steam pressure rising in itself as it got ready to be properly scandalized - its pipes groaned and stretched, you could hear the noises in its walls and cellars. They imagined he paid for her finery. When they heard this was not so, that the girl had sovereigns in her purse - enough, it was reported, to buy the priest a pair of onyx cufflinks - the pressure did not fall, but stayed constant, so that while it did not reach the stage where the outrage was hissing out through the open valves, it maintained a good rumble, a lower note which sounded like a growl in the throat of a smallish dog."

Wonderful! Gossip does resemble steam hissing from a radiator or the growl of a small dog. And yet it's so important. We form community around it. How so?

Take this example: Imagine going out for dinner with a group of colleagues. While there isn't overt hostility among you, there are clear differences and tensions. You wouldn't naturally choose go out to dinner together, but you've been thrown together by circumstance and are trying to make the best of it.

And so you have dinner together and things are quite pleasant really. There's harmony, banter, and humour at the table. How do you manage to get on so well, despite and beyond differences? By talking about somebody else! Much of the time is spent talking about others whose faults, eccentricities, and shortcomings we all agree upon. Alternatively, we talk about shared indignations. We end up having an harmonious time together because we talk about someone or something else whose difference from us is greater than our difference, at least at that moment, from each other. Of course, you're afraid to go to the bathroom because you already know whom they will be talking about when you get up from the table! Your fear is well-founded.

Until we reach a certain level of maturity, we form community largely around scapegoating, that is, we overcome our differences and tensions by focusing on someone or something about whom or which we share a common distancing, indignation, ridicule, anger, or jealousy. That's the anthropological function of gossip - and a very important one it is. We overcome our differences and tensions by scapegoating someone or something. That's why it's easier to form community against something rather than around something and why it's easier to define ourselves more by what we are against than by what we are for.

Ancient cultures knew this and designed certain rituals precisely to take tension out of the community by scapegoating. For example, at the time of Jesus within the Jewish community a ritual existed that essentially worked this way: At regular intervals the community would take a goat and symbolically invest it with the tensions and divisions of the community. Among other things, they would cloth it with a purple drape and put a crown of thorns on its head as a sign of their sins. (Notice how Jesus is vested in exactly these symbols when Pilate shows him to the crowd: "Ecco homo ... Behold your scapegoat!") The goat was then chased off to die in the desert. It's leaving the community was understood as taking the sin and tension away and the community was seen to be washed clean by its blood (as we are "in the blood of the lamb".)

Jesus is our scapegoat. He takes away our sin and division. How? He takes away our sins by taking them in, carrying them, and transforming them so as not to give them back in kind. Jesus takes away the sin of the world in the same way as a water-filter purifies, by holding the impurities within itself and giving back only what's pure.

Jesus took away the sin of the world this way: He took in hatred and gave back love; he took in curses and gave back blessing; he took in bitterness and gave back graciousness; he took in jealousy and gave back understanding; and he took in murder and gave back forgiveness. By absorbing our sin, differences, and jealousies, he did for us what we, in a less mature and less effective way, try to do when we crucify each other through gossip.

And that's his invitation to us: As adult women and men we are invited to step up and do what Jesus did, take in the differences and jealousies around us, hold them, and transform them so as not to give them back in kind.

Only then won't we need scapegoats any more. And only then will the steam-pipes of gossip cease hissing and the low growl of that smallish dog inside us be silent.

I am at the service of the catechists, if you have need of anything just give me a call at the diocese 922-4747x227 or contact me via email cat.cecr@sasktel.net.

Leaving nothing undared for the Kingdom - Christine Taylor