Curriculum: Diocese of Kalamazoo
May: Angels & Creation

For Your 3-5 graders On the Paschal Mystery & Sanctification

1. Know that the angels are not saints, they are God's helpers. (DOK 1.5.5; 2.1.3, 3.2.1, 5.5.4, 6.5.6) CCC 362-368

2. Understand that we are made in the image of God, with an intellect and a free will. With our free will, we have the choice to follow God or not. (DOK 3.1.2) CCC 362-368

3. Understand that God created us out of love to be with Him forever. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve and death (separation of the body from the soul) entered as well. It is only through Jesus taking on our flesh and sacrificing Himself that we are able to overcome sin and death, and one day be with God united in body and soul. (DOK 4.1.1) CCC 51-53

4. Appreciate there is a spiritual world we do not see. This is made up of angels and demons (angels who disobeyed God). The angels are messengers of God and aid us when we ask, the demons try to persuade us to disobey God. (DOK 4.1.4) CCC 334-336, 351-352, 391-92

For your 6-8 Graders On the Paschal Mystery & Sanctification

1. We can know and speak about God because the beauty, truth and the goodness of creation bear a certain resemblance to God, especially in humans, who are made in the image and likeness of God. (DOK 6.1.1) CCC 39-49; 342, 355, 380

2. Plan and carry out activities that promote peace and justice, care for the environment, and service to others and the other corporal and spiritual works of mercy. (DOK 6.3.14) CCC 2415-2418

3. By His wisdom and love, God created everything out of nothing, and is infinitely greater than all His works, yet is present ot His creatures inmost being, providing for their every need (DOK 7.1.2) CCC 296-301, 317-320

Student Quiz on Creation

1. According to Scripture, "Creation" means that (6.1.1)
   A. Humans created the world
   B. God created the world
   C. The world always was
   D. The world made itself
2. What did God infuse into the world when He created it? (6.1.1)
   A. Truth
   B. Goodness
   C. Beauty
   D. All of the above
3. Human beings are made... (6.1.3)
   A. In the image and likeness of God
   B. To be servants
   C. In sin
   D. To be in conflict with each other
4. Evil entered the created world
   A. By itself
   B. Because God willed it
   C. Through the gift of free will
   D. Through the dinosaurs
5. The summit of creation is (6.1.3; 6.1.21)
   A. Goldfish crackers
   B. Adam and Eve; the human race
   C. The great waters and deeps of the oceans
   D. Dry land and plant life
6. When we reflect upon creation, what should be our response? (7.1.3)
   A. To treat animals just like human beings (for more info, read CCC 2418)
   B. To gaze upon the stars and ignore human suffering even if we can help
   C. To serve and love God and offer all creation back to Him
7. Creation is a gift from God where God(K.1.2)
   A. Created the visible, the seen matter
   B. Created the invisible, the spirits
   C. Created all life
   D. All of the above
8. Angels are (3.5.6; 4.1.4; 6.1.25)
   A. Good humans who have died
   B. Created spiritual beings who honor God at all times and sometimes act as God's messengers.
   C. Created physical beings just like the animals
   D. Never able to fall to evil or disobedience to God

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BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jubilee Year of the Holy Spirit: Bearing the Fruit of Chastity

From the online Catholic Encyclopedia (from catholic.com), we read, "Chastity is the virtue which excludes or moderates the indulgence of the sexual appetite. It is a form of the virtue of temperance, which controls according to right reason the desire for and use of those things which afford the greatest sensual pleasures." What may be surprising is that chastity is not only for the unmarried, but for the married. Note that chastity can exclude, but also moderates the indulgence of the sexual appetite. While for the unmarried, it must exclude, but for the married, it must moderate. The conjugal acts which are proper to marriage must always be open to life and never contraceptive in nature. St. John Paul II writes prolifically and profoundly about the "mutuality of gift" between the spouses. In the conjugal acts of the married couple is signified the "I-thou" of the couple, the vows exchanged which are to be lived out through the daily self-sacrifices of one to the other. John Paul II speaks of the mutuality of "self-gift". Each person in the marriage freely and generously giving of themselves to the other. It is the hard work of self-sacrifice, after the example of Christ who sacrificed himself for his Bride, the Church, even to the point of painful death. This gift includes the hard work of dying to oneself each day, and husbands, this is not one-sided! Thank your wives for what they do for you each day, the hidden things you rarely see or can appreciate.

Jubilee Year of the Holy Spirit: Bearing the Fruit of Prudence

In addition to being one of the twelve fruits of the Spirit, prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues. Prudence enables practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right course of action in achieving it. It consists of the art of blending judgment with the experience and good sense that comes about when one knows and lives in complete faithfulness to the laws of God as Jesus taught us and as elaborated upon by the apostles in the letters of the New Testament. Thus, it is the practical application of the teachings of the Gospel in any particular circumstance. Since it is the role of the Holy Spirit to enlighten our intellects, to apply the virtue of prudence requires our right relationship with God and a close relationship with his Holy Spirit in which we continually seek His counsel, especially when we are in doubt about what to do in a given situation. We must be open to the quiet suggestions that the Holy Spirit lays on our heart, or that maybe spoken through others or some other medium such as Sacred Scripture, something said on Catholic radio, a homily, or some Catholic spiritual reading or even of a friend if what is said is in keeping with Church teaching.

Jubilee Year of the Holy Spirit: Bearing the Fruit of Modesty

integral part of temperance" that "protects the intimate center of the person"…"is ordered to chastity", and "guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with the dignity of persons and their solidarity" (CCC#2521). In his Theology of the Body, Pope John Paul II stated that modesty is an interior disposition from which one's outward appearance and behavior stem. It is "a concrete manifestation of life according to the Spirit," which is another way of simply repeating what St. Paul said, that it is a fruit of the Spirit.

Modesty is also a virtue that is tied to humility. It is the understanding that everything we have, including our own gifts and talents, intellect, skill and aptitudes come from God who created us---and he could have created us so that we had few if any at all! As a result, we must be patient with and understanding towards those whose skills, gifts, and aptitudes are lesser than ours. Depending on our patience level this can be frustrating for us, but then this is the cross we are called to carry, and our charity and patience towards them must be no less than what we expect of God towards us!

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Heavenly Father, in this month of May, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to increase within us the fruits of prudence, modesty, and chastity that we may with pure minds and hearts serve you by serving others not for our own gain and own sense of self-fulfillment but out of that love which is pure and chaste for others because each person is created in your divine image and by virtue of that fact alone has infinite dignity and is worthy of our love and attention. Help us to see Christ in each person whom you place in front of us. May Mary, our Mother, be our model of prudence, modesty, and chastity and pray for us to draw us ever closer to her Son. We ask this through your same Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, God forever and ever. Amen.

CENACLE RESOURCES

Prayer of Saint Augustine to the Holy Spirit (said in addition to the other opening prayers to the Holy Spirit)
"Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,

Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen."

Cenacle Readings for the Month:
Week 1: Matthew 11:28-30
Week 2: Colossians 3:12-17
Week 3: 1 Peter 3:13-22
Week 4: Hebrews 12:14-29
Week 5 (if needed or may be used as a substitute reading): Proverbs 1:1-9

CENACLE PRAYER

Holy Spirit, we ask you for the gift of Wisdom to better know You and Your divine perfections, for the gift of Understanding to clearly discern the spirit of the mysteries of the holy faith, for the gift of Counsel that we may live according to the principles of this faith, for the gift of Knowledge that we may look for counsel in You and that we may always find it in You, for the gift of Fortitude that no fear or earthly preoccupations would ever separate us from You, for the gift of Piety that we may always serve Your Majesty with a filial love, for the gift of the Fear of the Lord that we may dread sin,

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