Greetings all.    I hope this finds you well and in good spirits.

This week I would like to make sure that the children understand the importance of the sacraments in our lives and to realize what it means to live a sacramental life – a life connected to God, a Spirit-filled life, a life as disciples of Jesus.  I want the children to understand that sacraments are about relationship, a two-way street, a give-and-take between us and God.  God desires that we draw close to Him and the sacraments are a means by which we can do this  -  not by just showing up, not by simply going through the motions, but by a meaningful participation and a deep understanding and appreciation of what is taking place.   Please help the children to read through and understand the lesson which is attached.    There are some words and concepts they will need to have explained to them.   They will not be able to grasp this without reading through it slowly and attentively and without your assistance.   When I do this lesson in the classroom I emphasize the opposites which I have placed in **bold** to point out our humanity and God's divinity and our connectedness to God.

Please have them first read pages 288 - 289 in their textbooks which list the seven Church sacraments with a brief but meaningful description of each.   You might quiz them by asking which of the sacraments they have already received and which they anticipate receiving.

I refer in the lesson to sacramentals as being ordinary things.   By this I mean that they are made of common or natural substances.   This is not to mean that sacramentals are unimportant or to be used casually.  On the contrary, we should treat them with respect and holiness recognizing them as gifts from God by which we are assisted in our efforts to enter into relationship with God.

I look forward to the children's responses to the homework questions.

Thank you for your help with this lesson.    Please reach out to me with any questions.   Stay well and be blessed..

JZ