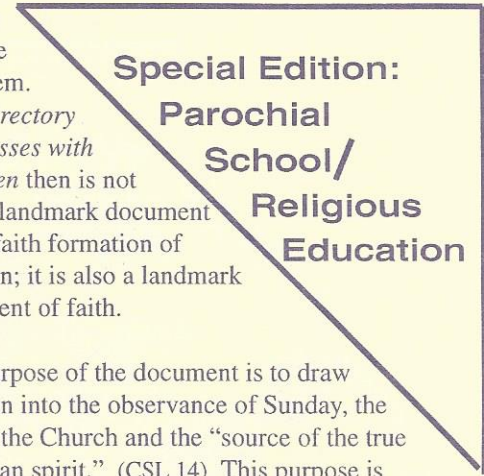


# Word on Worship

Newsletter of the Worship Office, Archdiocese of Newark, NJ



we can become like them. The *Directory for Masses with Children* then is not only a landmark document in the faith formation of children; it is also a landmark document of faith.

**Special Edition:  
Parochial  
School/  
Religious  
Education**

The purpose of the document is to draw children into the observance of Sunday, the day of the Church and the "source of the true Christian spirit." (CSL 14) This purpose is grounded in the Church's desire that all the faithful be led to full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy, (CSL 14) the fount from which the Church draws its power. The *Directory for Masses with Children* powerfully proclaims that for baptized children a fully Christian life is inconceivable without participation in the liturgical life of the Church. (DMC 8) Therefore, the pastoral care of children begins with the liturgy of the Church and all pastoral activity leads to communion with Christ and one another. The *Directory for Masses with Children* is a document about the pastoral care of children and their full participation in the liturgical worship of the local community.

The *Directory for Masses with Children* is a Christian identity statement for children. Although the ministries of Catholic school and religious education provide for children as students, the *Directory for Masses with Children* is a constant reminder that the Christian identity of children is not students but believers. The Church baptizes children and forms them into believers. This document acknowledges children as baptized and by reason of their baptism, they have a right to stand with the gathered people of God. The experience of standing, praying, and singing as the people of God is ritual expression of the membership and identity that is part of their baptismal right.

**O**n November 1, 1998, the Church will mark the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Directory for Masses with Children*. (DMC) Anniversaries such as this often cause an appreciative remembering, thereby generating a new energy for a renewed dedication. This is not the case with the *Directory for Masses with Children*. Although it has been around for 25 years and has a past, it is catalytic in nature. The *Directory* continues to prompt, provoke, and urge with newness. It remains the thrust and map for the "full, conscious, and active participation" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, CSL 14) of children in the life and worship of the people of God.

The simplicity of the *Directory for Masses with Children* and the "how-to-ness" of the document often disguise its importance and inspired nature. The words of Christ, "Unless you become like little children," (Matthew 18:3) highlight the spirit of the *Directory for Masses with Children*. This document has directed us in praxis and understanding about how we relate to children spiritually. Jesus told us to become like little children; He did not say let the little children be like adults. Christ's words do not ask us to give an adult spirituality to children. Children are the model. They **have** spirituality and the Gospel asks us to acknowledge and acquire it. Therefore, adults do things **with** children, not **for** children so, in fact,

In This Issue:

- *Directory for Masses with Children* 25 Years Later
- Forming Children in the Liturgical Year
- The State of the Christian Initiation of Children



## DIRECTORY FOR MASSES WITH CHILDREN 25 YEARS LATER THE CATALYST OF THE FAITH FORMATION OF CHILDREN







The *Directory for Masses with Children* also laid the groundwork for a more unified process of faith formation (DMC 9) for children by reinforcing the dynamic relationship between liturgy and catechesis. The catechesis of children needs to be “intrinsically linked with the whole of liturgical activity, for it is in the liturgy that Jesus Christ works in fullness for the transformation of human beings.” (*Catechesi tradendae* 23) The continuous uninterrupted movement of liturgy and catechesis forms memory and stimulates religious imagination. Pastorally, the *Directory* makes this a reality.

The *Directory for Masses with Children* guides the adaptation of liturgical rites for celebrations with children. The principles of adaptation enable the *Directory for Masses with Children* to be put in conversation with liturgical books thus drawing children more and more into the liturgical life of the Church. An example of the application of the *Directory for Masses with Children* is the *Lectionary for Masses with Children*, which is a

publication resulting from the *Directory for Masses with Children* being put in conversation with the *Lectionary for Mass*. The *Directory for Masses with Children* continues this dialogue with the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) for a better understanding and more pastoral use of the RCIA adapted for children of catechetical age. This type of pastoral application of the *Directory for Masses with Children* needs to catch up with the need; e.g. the *Directory* applied to the *Book of Blessings* gives a wealth of rites to be used for ongoing catechesis after the first communion of children baptized as infants.

Twenty-five years have come and gone but the spirit and impact of the *Directory for Masses with Children* has not been exhausted. It is a document that is Spirit-impregnated, that is, the *Directory for Masses with Children* continues to jar, direct, stir, and call us to the mystery of God! At this anniversary time we look at the past and remember that the *Directory for Masses with Children* evolved out of the Church’s “special concern” for the spiritual well-being of children. This anniversary time and our societal conditions challenge us with urgency to focus on the pastoral care of children. The *Directory for Masses with Children* remains the way to help children readily and joyfully encounter Christ.

*Word on Worship* will commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Directory for Masses with Children* with special articles in upcoming issues. This issue contains an insert with suggestions for three months of the planning and preparation in celebrating the liturgical year with children in a Catholic school / religious education setting. Upcoming issues will include “Principles for the Preparation of Christmas Masses with Children” and “Sunday, the Day of Sacrament – Saturday, a Day of Preparation.”+

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# FORMING CHILDREN IN THE LITURGICAL YEAR

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**D**uring the course of the liturgical year, “the Church unfolds the mystery of Christ.” (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, GNLIC 1) Participation in the celebrations of the liturgical calendar, year after year, draws us deeper and deeper into the mystery of God. Therefore, “a fully Christian life is inconceivable without participation in the liturgical life of the Church.” (DMC 8) This is no less true for children than it is for adults.

This insert of *Word on Worship* proposes suggestions for three months of the planning and preparation for celebrating the liturgical year with children in a Catholic school / religious education setting. This is an excerpt from *Forming Students into Believers*, a tool for planning the entire liturgical year in a Catholic school / religious education setting which is now available from the Worship Office. This resource is not meant to eliminate planning on the local level, but rather to assist catechists and planners.

## SEPTEMBER

### ROMAN CALENDAR NOTES

- The Season of Ordinary Time
- September 8/ Feast of the Birth of Mary
- September 14/ Feast of the Holy Cross
- September 15/ Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
- September 21/ Feast of St. Matthew
- September 27/ Memorial of Vincent de Paul
- September 29/ Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

Use a “Blessing on a Name’s Day” for a child’s feast day from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*. The life of the saint may also be related. Bless children on their birthdays. See *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* or *Children’s Daily Prayer*. Relate children’s birthday to date of baptism.

### OPENING OF SCHOOL

- Use a liturgy of the word format (see: *Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy*, p. 53-54).

- Celebrate the eucharist with the entire school community on a special day in the Church calendar, for example, the Feast of the Birth of Mary, September 8; the Feast of the Holy Cross, September 14; the Feast of St. Matthew, September 21.

### SEPTEMBER 8 – FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF MARY

- Gather the school community for
  - a eucharistic liturgy,
  - morning prayer (see: *Children’s Daily Prayer*, September 8, or “Prayer on the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary”),
  - the singing of a Marian anthem, *Hail Holy Queen*.
- The gospel assigned today is the genealogy of Christ, a seemingly endless list of names that concludes with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The genealogy only lists the names of four women (see: *Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons*). Discuss lineage with children and why it is important. How does it affect us?
- Cuba celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Charity on this day.







#### SEPTEMBER 14 – FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS

- Mark entrance into the new school year with eucharistic liturgy this day (see: *Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy*, p. 54-58).
- Focus liturgical catechesis in September on the cross as
  - an identity symbol for Christians,
  - a victory symbol, our hope of glory (see: *Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons*).
- Emphasize in ritual catechesis the Church’s
  - procession with the cross
  - veneration of the cross
  - signing with the cross.
- Catechize and reflect on ways to embrace the cross in our lives. See prayers of the Sacramentary for the Feast of the Holy Cross and Good Friday for personal reflection and adaptation for use with children.
- Use classroom prayer or morning prayer to place emphasis on the opening gesture of “O Lord, open my lips” or “O God, come to my assistance.”
- Display in a prayer space the cross that is used for Good Friday veneration.
- Bring crosses from home for blessing (see: *Children’s Daily Prayer*).

#### SEPTEMBER 15 – MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

- Connected to the Feast of the Holy Cross. Gospel today places Mary at the foot of the cross. Emphasize Mary’s participation in the work of redemption (see: “Opening Prayer” of

Sacramentary p. 704).

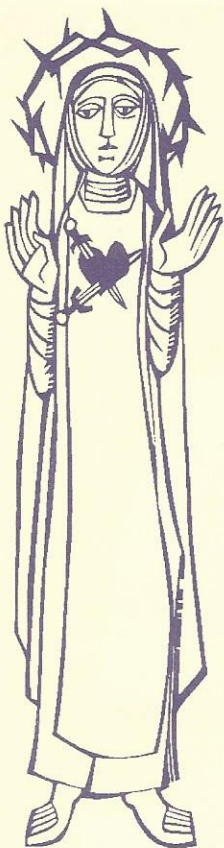
- Gather the school community for eucharist, a liturgy of the word, or morning prayer (see: *Children’s Daily Prayer*).
- Teach the children the *Stabat Mater*, a hymn which sings the stations from the point of view of Jesus’ mother, and has a long association with the Way of the Cross (see: *Lectionary for Mass*, p. 801).
- Discussion and reflection on the seven dolours (sorrows) of Mary (see: *Take Me Home Notes Too*) or the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary are appropriate.

#### SEPTEMBER 21 – FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW

- The introductory notes of the Gospel of Matthew found in the Bible can be adapted for biographical reference. See *Take Me Home Notes*.
- Gather the school community for eucharist, a liturgy of the word, or morning prayer (see: *Children’s Daily Prayer*).
- Provide catechesis on discipleship.
- Highlight the proclamation of the gospel in liturgical catechesis by emphasizing the gospel book.
- Focus ritual catechesis on the gospel procession and the assembly’s stance as active listeners singing “Alleluia!”
- Discuss the role of evangelization in the life of the Christian.
- Display the Book of Gospels in a prayer space.

#### SEPTEMBER 27 – MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL

- Emphasize our responsibility to work with the poor.
- Invite a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society or the parish social justice committee to speak about outreach to the poor. Children may wish to join in their efforts for a week or for the whole month of September.
- Highlight the presentation of the gifts at Sunday worship and / or the procession of the gifts for the poor on Holy Thursday in liturgical catechesis.
- Emphasize the rite of sending “to love and serve the Lord” in ritual catechesis.
- Connect liturgy and life by discussing parish policy and archdiocesan programs of stewardship.
- Collect and display baskets of food for the poor in a prayer space.





SEPTEMBER 29 – FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS  
MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL

- Gather the school community for
  - a eucharistic liturgy (see: *Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy*, p. 58 - 62);
  - morning prayer (see: *Children's Daily Prayer*).
- Highlight the *Sanctus* in liturgical catechesis.
- Use and emphasize the traditional prayer to our guardian angels.
- Consult the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 334-336, and adapt information for doctrinal catechesis.

OCTOBER

ROMAN CALENDAR NOTES

- The Season of Ordinary Time
- October 1/ Memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Doctor of the Church
- October 2/ Memorial of the Guardian Angels
- October 4/ Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi
- October 7/ Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
- October 15/ Memorial of St. Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Church
- October 18/ Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist
- October 19/ Memorial of SS. Isaac Jogues and John de Brébeuf
- October 28/ Feast of SS. Simon and Jude, Apostles

October is the month when the U.S. Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. A prayer service using prayer texts from the *Sacramentary*, "Mass for the Spread of the Gospel," could be prepared. Perhaps a map of the world highlighting Third World countries could be displayed. October is also the month that the U.S. Church celebrates World Youth Day. Perhaps a youth rally celebrating their faith could be arranged for the junior high. October 31 is the celebration of Halloween in most areas. All customs around Halloween are really All Saints Day and All Souls Day customs. Halloween is the celebration of the eve of the festival of All Saints Day. Catechesis and school celebrations should reflect this.

OCTOBER 1 – MEMORIAL OF ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS / OCTOBER 15 – MEMORIAL OF ST. TERESA OF JESUS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

- Both declared "Doctors of the Church" for their

spiritual scholarship (see: *Take Me Home Notes Too*).

- Both saints lived ordinary lives in an extraordinary way. Both gave living testimony that time redeemed in Christ is extraordinary. God's presence permeates all of life and begs us to respond.
- Both saints attest to the need for silence and contemplation in our lives. Spend two minutes of silent prayer with children.
- Liturgical catechesis can highlight "Let us pray" before the prayers at liturgy. This is an invitation to silence and contemplation.



OCTOBER 2 – MEMORIAL OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

- Devotion to the guardian angels has traditionally been a way to teach children about God's love for them.
- Use and emphasize the traditional prayer to our guardian angels.
- Consult the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 334-336, and adapt information for doctrinal catechesis.

OCTOBER 4 – MEMORIAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

- Celebrate monthly eucharist on this day. *Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy* (p. 62-64) contains excellent resources for celebrating the day with young people.
- Celebrate the blessing of pets and all animals. Coordinate this with the parish. For the "Order of Blessing of Animals," see *Book of Blessings* or *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*. While it may not be practical to bring animals to school, plants are part of God's creation, as are rocks. One caged pet can be presented representing all the children's animals. There is also a very simple "Blessing of Pets" in *Children's Daily Prayer*.







- The junior high can make large symbols mentioned in the Book of Daniel 3:57-88, 56 or the Canticum of the Sun for the primary grade students. The junior high can then lead them in the prayers, or the drama club can do a choral reading of the canticles.
- For additional activities see *Take Me Home Notes*.
- It should be noted that the Franciscans became promoters of devotion to the crèche, just as they were to the stations of the cross.

#### OCTOBER 7 – MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

- The devotion of the rosary “should be encouraged” (CSL 20, 72) and can be celebrated with children. Rosaries can be provided for children by the parish rosary society. Teach children how to pray the rosary.
- On this feast, the rosary can be celebrated publicly in the context of a gathering (see: “Celebration of the Rosary” in *Celebrating the Marian Year*).

#### OCTOBER 18 – FEAST OF ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

- No gospel writer is more concerned than Luke with the mercy and compassion of Jesus. No gospel writer is more concerned with the role of the Spirit in the life of Jesus and his disciples,

with the importance of prayer, or with Jesus’ concern for women. Luke is the author of a gospel and its sequel, the Acts of the Apostles. The introductory notes of the Gospel of Luke found in the Bible can be adapted for biographical reference.

- St. Luke is the patron saint of artists, writers and doctors (see: *Take Me Home Notes*).
- Gather the school community for eucharist, a liturgy of the word, or morning prayer (see: *Children’s Daily Prayer*).
- Discuss the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (see: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2447).
- Provide catechesis on discipleship.
- Highlight the proclamation of the gospel in liturgical catechesis by emphasizing the gospel book.
- Focus ritual catechesis on the gospel procession and the assembly’s stance as active listeners singing “Alleluia!”
- Display the *Book of Gospels* in a prayer space.

#### OCTOBER 19 – MEMORIAL OF SS. ISAAC JOGUES AND JOHN DE BREBEUF, NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Direct catechesis toward the missionary activity of the Church and the concept of martyrdom. A truly mature Christian faith does not fear martyrdom. Discuss contemporary missionaries and martyrs.
- Invite a speaker from the Society of Jesus, the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, or Maryknoll.

**Note:** October 19 is the anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ. The celebration of this anniversary takes preference over the memorial of SS. Isaac Jogues and John de Brébeuf in the Archdiocese of Newark.

#### OCTOBER 28 – FEAST OF SS. SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

- Familiarize children with the names of the twelve Apostles because they form the foundation of the Church with Jesus as the cornerstone. They were the first to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and among the first to reach mature faith and martyrdom. The Apostles enfolded the missionary mandate of Christ.
- Have the children write to St. Jude Children’s Hospital and research the choice of the name for the hospital.
- Gather the school community for eucharist, a



liturgy of the word, or morning prayer (see: *Children's Daily Prayer*).

- Emphasize the rite of sending, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord," in ritual catechesis (see: Matthew 28:19). Connect this concluding mandate to life.

## NOVEMBER

### ROMAN CALENDAR NOTES

- The Season of Ordinary Time
- November 1/ Solemnity of All Saints
- November 2/ Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
- November 3/ Memorial of St. Martin de Porres
- November 9/ Feast of Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
- November 11/ Memorial of St. Martin of Tours
- November 13/ Memorial of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
- November 18/ Memorial of Dedication of the Basilicas of Peter and Paul in Rome
- Solemnity of Christ the King/ Last Sunday of Ordinary Time
- November 30/ Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle

The celebration of Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November. The school liturgy should not be a duplication of the parish's Thanksgiving Day service. Encourage children to attend the parish celebration. School preparation might be in the form of gathering clothes, canned goods or whatever is needed in the community. *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* suggest that the three days leading up to Thanksgiving may be good choices for annual "ember days," days of penance and fasting. A simple prayer service in the format of a liturgy of the word could be celebrated. After the sign of the cross, greeting and opening prayer, the scripture of the ten lepers (Luke 17: 11-19) could be dramatized, done with mime, or read by a professional storyteller. Homily, intercessions, the Lord's Prayer, concluding prayer and simple blessing follow the reading.

### NOVEMBER 1 – SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

- "Today we rejoice in the holy men and women of every time and place." (Sacramentary p. 728) Celebrate monthly eucharist on this day. *Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy* (p. 64-74) contains excellent resources for celebrating the day with young people.
- See *Children's Daily Prayer* for classroom

prayer.

- This is a holy day and often children will be participating in a parish Mass. Neither group should feel like spectators.
- Breaking open the gospel reading of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1f) in the context of a prayer format would be helpful. In reflecting on the saints children learn to put on the true attitudes of being **blest**.
- Focus doctrinal catechesis in on the communion of saints. Read "We Confess the Communion of Saints" in *Words around the Table* by Gail Ramshaw or *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 946-962, for background. Reflect on Hebrews 12:1.
- Emphasize in ritual catechesis the Church's profession "We believe in the communion of saints."
- Photos of the departed relatives of the children can be displayed on a white sheet in the classroom prayer space or the entryway into the school. Pictures of saints can also be included. Observe silence in the area.
- Halloween is not a separate celebration but rather is the beginning of the festival of All Saints. November 2 continues the celebration (see: *Take Me Home Notes* and *Take Me Home Notes Too*).



### NOVEMBER 2 – COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

- A prayer service or Mass for the Dead should be celebrated on this day or sometime during this month. *Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy* (p. 67) and *Children's Daily Prayer* are excellent resources for celebrating the day with young people.
- Have children submit the names of the deceased



members of their families. Junior high students could make a large scroll of the names and names can be prayed for each day (see: "A Prayer for the Dead" in *Children's Daily Prayer*). Bells can toll during the reading of names.

- Emphasize in ritual catechesis the Church's remembrance of the dead during the eucharistic prayer.
- The month of November and particularly All Souls Day are traditional times for visiting graves. This is probably how graveyards became associated with "All-Hallows-Eve" or Halloween. (see: *Take Me Home Notes* and *Take Me Home Notes Too*)
- Some parishes have a Book of Life for people to inscribe the names of their deceased loved ones. Those names marked are remembered in prayer for the entire month. The Book of Life (if available) should be visible at all the gatherings of the children to pray for the dead. List of parishioners who have lost a loved one this past year could be obtained at the parish office. "Thinking of You" cards or prayer enrollments could be sent by the children.

NOVEMBER 3 – MEMORIAL OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

- Martin was born in Lima of a Spanish father and a black slave mother. Martin was a Dominican lay brother who ministered to the poor, especially African slaves. Patron saint of social justice and of peoples of mixed races (see: *Take Me Home Notes Too*).
- Pray morning prayer found in *Children's Daily Prayer*.
- Reflect and discuss Galatians 3:26-29.



NOVEMBER 9 – FEAST OF DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME / NOVEMBER 18/ MEMORIAL OF DEDICATION OF THE BASILICAS OF PETER AND PAUL IN ROME

- The Lateran Basilica is the cathedral church of Rome. It is the episcopal seat of the Pope, the

bishop of Rome. It is the "mother and head of all churches of Rome and world." Called the Lateran Basilica because it was built on land owned by the Laterani family. Basilica dedicated to St. John the Baptist (see: *Children's Daily Prayer*).

- The basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul were built in the fourth century. Constantine built the Basilica of St. Peter over the tomb of St. Peter. Valentinian II began the construction of St. Paul's on the Via Ostiense which took the place of a smaller church built by Constantine.
- Discussion on the relationship of church edifices to the people (see: 1 Peter 2:4 and *Take Me Home Notes Too*).

"Your house is a house of prayer, and your presence makes it a place of blessing. You give us grace upon grace to build the temple of your Spirit, Creating its beauty from the holiness of our lives."

(From the preface: *Dedication of a Church II*)

- Catechesize on the relationship of the major basilicas in Rome to the Church. Discuss the cathedral church of the Archdiocese of Newark, the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Plan an outing and a tour.
- Provide information on the "holy door" that has been designated for the millennium. Information can be acquired at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

NOVEMBER 11 – MEMORIAL OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

- Martin was a centurion who found Christianity and gave up violence. He became a "soldier for Christ" (see: *Take Home Notes*). He is remembered for his non-violence.
- This memorial coincides with Veterans Day, which began as a commemoration at the end of World War I (see: *Children's Daily Prayer*).
- Prayers for peace and victims of violence are appropriate today.
- Reflect on U.S. bishops' pastoral on peace with the junior high.

NOVEMBER 13 – MEMORIAL OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI

- God called Frances Xavier Cabrini from Italy to serve the immigrants of America. She was the first U.S. citizen canonized a saint. She is the patroness of immigrants and migrants. Pray morning prayer from *Children's Daily Prayer*.
- Senior citizens who migrated to this country as

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**Website**

www.rcan.org/rcan/worship.htm



children could be interviewed. The role of local parish churches in the lives of immigrant people should be highlighted.

- Get information or plan an outing to Ellis Island.



#### CHRIST THE KING / LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

- Pray the weekly prayer with a reading from the Gospel for Sunday, the Solemnity of Christ the King in *Children's Daily Prayer*. See the prayer text found in the *Sacramentary*.
- Discuss "kingdom of God" of which Jesus spoke.
- For doctrinal catechesis see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 440, 1060.
- This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Catechesis on the liturgical calendar is appropriate (see: *Poster Liturgical Year Calendar* published by Liturgy Training Publications).
- See *Take Me Home Notes* for an activity that connects the last week of the Church's year to Advent.

#### NOVEMBER 30 – FEAST OF ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE

- Familiarize children with the names of the twelve Apostles because they form the foundation of the Church with Jesus as the cornerstone. They were the first to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and among the first to reach mature faith and martyrdom. The Apostles enfolded the missionary mandate of Christ. Read and reflect on the calling of Andrew (Matthew 4:18-22).
- Gather the school community for eucharist, a liturgy of the word, or morning prayer (see: *Children's Daily Prayer*).
- Provide catechesis on discipleship.

#### ORDINARY TIME

- The weeks of Ordinary Time "do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ... rather, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects." (GNLYC 43) Ordinary Time gives the community an opportunity to focus on and to improve its liturgical life as a whole.
- Focus ritual catechesis on doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, for example,
  - consider the parish's liturgical music repertoire. Have Christian ritual music songfest in school or in the parish;
  - invite the music ministers of the parish to spend time in the school or during religious education to discuss music as an expression of prayer and worship.
  - invite lectors of the parish to spend time in the school or during religious education to discuss the ministry of the word in the life of the parish.

#### RESOURCES

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*. Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1988. This book contains blessings for many days, seasons, and occasions.

*Celebrating the Marian Year*. Washington: National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1987. Contains devotional celebrations in honor of Mary.

*Children's Daily Prayer*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1996. A service of prayer is provided for each day of the school year. An additional service of prayer is provided for groups that meet only once each week. Simpler prayers are offered for mealtime and the end of the school day.



*Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy.* Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications and GIA Publications, 1989. This is a carefully organized, practical tool for all who plan liturgy. There are introductions to the seasons, suggestions for music and the worship environment and prayer texts.

*The Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons.* Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1996

Sacramentary. The Roman Missal

*Take Me Home: Notes on the Church Year for Children.* Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1991. The 60 notes in this book can be photocopied and can be taken home. These notes can serve as a reminder of a special day or an upcoming season. They can help join the liturgical life of the parish with our kitchens and living rooms and gardens.

*Take Me Home Too: More Notes on the Church Year for Children.* Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.

*The Way of the Cross.* Newark: Worship Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, 1997. A resource that

applies the principles of celebrating ritual prayer with children to the stations of the cross. Catechesis that supports the ritual prayer is also presented.

*Words Around the Fire.* Gail Ramshaw. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1990.

*Words Around the Font.* Gail Ramshaw. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.

*Words Around the Table.* Gail Ramshaw. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1991.

*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (CSL)*  
The initial document of Vatican II that governed liturgical reform.

*Directory for Masses with Children (DMC) (1973)*  
Contains fundamental principles for the celebration of the eucharist with children. The DMC supplements the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. It offers principles and guidelines for adaptation of the liturgy for worship with children.

*Lectionary for Masses with Children (LMC) (1993)*  
The only lectionary approved for use in Masses with children. "The readings of this lectionary are also a resource for those who wish to prepare other liturgical celebrations with children, and wish to do so in the context of the liturgical year" (LMC 12).

*Sharing the Light of Faith: National Catechetical Directory (NCD)*

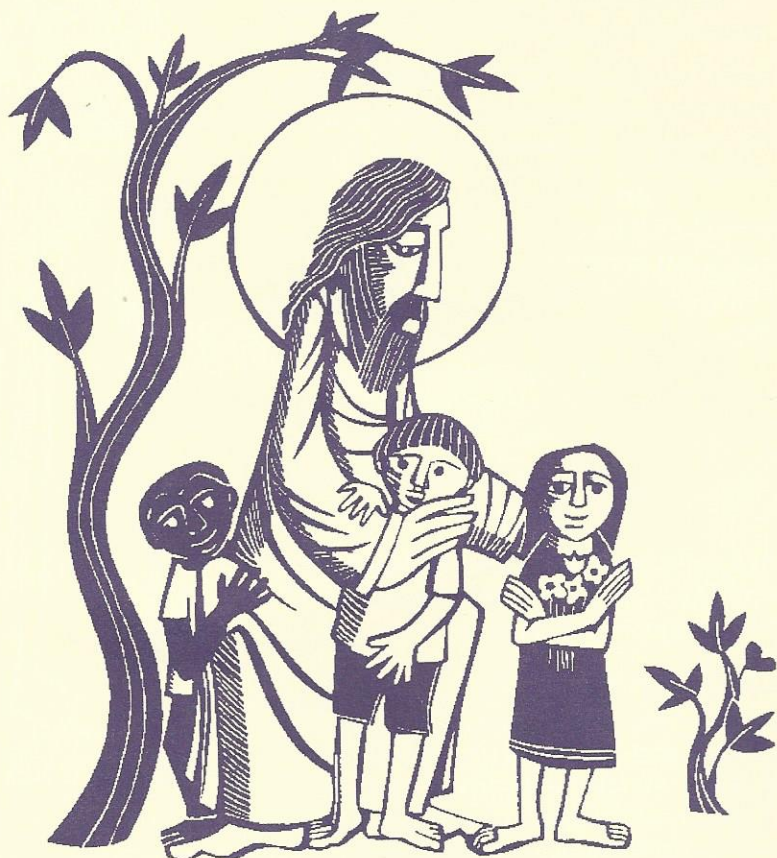
*Music in Catholic Worship (MCW)*  
Concrete guidelines for selecting and incorporating music into the worship of the church.

*Liturgical Music Today (LMT)*  
A document published ten years after MCW. The document treats subjects not addressed in MCW.

*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar (GNLYC)*  
Provides a useful description of how the church experiences the paschal mystery of Christ in the course of the liturgical year during seasons, weeks, and each day.+

Sr. Sandra DeMasi, SSJ  
Director, Worship Office

Edited by  
Carol Willis  
Pastoral Associate, St. Paul, Ramsey





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# THE STATE OF THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN

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As the implementation of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) continues, the Church is growing in appreciation and understanding of the three sacraments, baptism, confirmation, and eucharist, which comprise one process of Christian initiation. The Church is also becoming more aware of what is necessary to form people in the Christian faith, of faith formation involving both catechesis and participation in and celebration of rites. The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* provides the theology and directives for Christian initiation and it is in this context that the Christian initiation of children belongs.

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) is working on a book, entitled *The Christian Initiation of Children*. This book will be a companion volume to the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. It will include the revision of the rites for the Christian initiation of children, that is, the *Rite of Baptism for Children* of 1969 and the *Rite of Confirmation* of 1975. There will also be an amplification of chapter two of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* that will provide for unbaptized children of catechetical age. This second volume, *The Christian Initiation of Children*, is expected to be completed in 1999.

A consultation on the Christian initiation of children was conducted by ICEL in 1993. The bishops' conferences of the English speaking world were polled. The consultation elicited a great deal of information. Responses were received from bishops, national and diocesan liturgical commissions, parish priests, religious educators, parish baptismal teams, and parents. The responses to this consultation gave the direction needed for *The Christian Initiation of Children* project.

The new book will begin with the Christian initiation of young children. It will consider this as a whole, consisting of three sacraments extended over a period of time. Periods of formation and rites to be celebrated during these periods will be provided. The first part will also allow for the re-sequencing of the three sacraments of initiation with regard to the children.

Part two of this volume will consider the Christian initiation of older children, that is, children not

baptized as infants. This part will augment what is currently found in chapter two of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. As with adults the initiation journey of children culminates in the reception of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist at the Easter Vigil. (*Code of Canon Law* 852.1) The children are led to the moment of initiation in ways that are "in proportion to their age" and adapted to their "spiritual progress." (RCIA 242-243) Both part one and part two will conclude with an extensive section on mystagogy, which is Christian life after initiation.+

Sr. Sandra DeMasi, SSJ  
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Edited by  
Carol Willis  
Pastoral Associate, St. Paul, Ramsey

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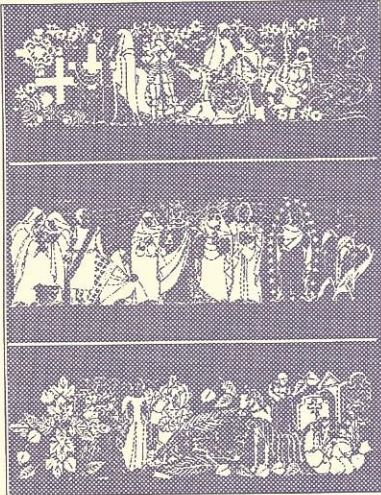
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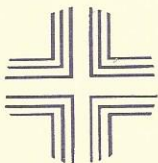
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