



# Children's Ministry Update

Year of Matthew

YEAR A: Matthew

Volume12 Edition2: 2017

## From the Team

Dear Fellow-Catechists,

Greeting, to our second newsletter for this year.

The theme for this newsletter is one of **SERVICE**. As volunteers, you are one of the saints who serve in the ministry of children's faith formation and support. Thank you for all the work you are doing out of love.

This service has been extended to us as we have been visiting Sacrament Teams around the parishes. Thank you for the warm welcome we have received. We look forward to meeting more teams as we move through parishes during the second half of this year. The information, sharing and feedback has been welcomed by us both and we hope will contribute to the overall well-being of your ministry.

The Gospel message of service is one of witness, compassionate love, reaching out to others, healing and peace. These qualities and many more of the Gospel message of service which we reveal through our ministry and person and in those who have gone before us are paramount to our mission in the Church and in the world.

We hope that the content of this newsletter will be of service to your ministry. Wishing each of you peace, joy and a continued recognition of the abundance of God's personal love for each of us,

**Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc and Carmen Balales**

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**GODLY PLAY DOLLS for purchase from WESTERN WOODWORKERS INC. Contact: Rena Hoare ph: 83523207**

*Sizes and prices below:*

- Large approx. 13cm - \$5
- Medium approx. 10cm - \$4
- Small approx. 6cm - \$3



# SERVICE TO OTHERS

## Love Your Neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22:39)

Service to others is the foundation to the life and message of Jesus. Because he came 'to serve' and 'to give'. The Christian life is one of service to others, where we show love and kindness to others, including those who do not treat us well. We can serve others in various ways and we should make the most of every opportunity that comes our way. One of the most beneficial ways to serve others is to show them that we care. Giving our time and support to someone will often be more appreciated than even the most beautiful gift. When others need our help most, we should make a special effort to show them that they matter. By providing love and understanding we can make a real difference in the lives of others. Paul has reminded us that helping others when they are struggling is central to the gospel.

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.  
(Galatians 6:2)*

Telling others of the good news of Jesus is the best example of how informing and educating others can help people alter their lives. Letting others know about our own experiences, in a sincere and loving manner, can help people to discover the truth of the Christian gospel and experience it for themselves.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19)*

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Pope Francis says; "Today we need a Church capable of walking at people's side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey." (Rio de Janeiro, World Youth Day, 2013)

The Church gives us the foundation for our thinking and acting in peace and justice. It is called catholic Social Teaching and it teaches us that:

- ◇ All people are created in the image of God
- ◇ All life is interconnected
- ◇ All people are called to work towards a peaceful and just society
- ◇ Money, business and work exist to serve people
- ◇ All people have a basic right to life, food, housing, health care, education and work
- ◇ All people are called to serve others especially the marginalised



### St Vincent de Paul Society

This catholic social teaching lies right at the heart of the St Vincent de Paul Society. This society was founded by 20 year old Frederic Ozanam in 1833. It was established by like minded people who wished to put their faith into action. This compassionate outlook, enthusiasm and vision strongly continues today in Australia. There are thousands of people who share their time and their care for humanity to make a real difference in the lives of the many disadvantaged people living in Australia. Operating since 1884, the Society in South Australia has over 3500 members and volunteers in 63 Conferences, 34 Vinnies Centres and numerous Special Works. They work together with dedicated staff to provide immediate relief to those in need and work together to identify the deep and long-term causes leading to spiritual, financial and social hardship in our community, and become a voice for the disadvantaged. The Society is supported by the generosity of individuals, churches, schools, numerous groups and volunteers to continue to serve.

# THE SAINTS

Saints are an important part of being catholic. A saint gives witness to what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus, is an example of holiness and keeps on trying no matter the cost. She/ he is an ordinary person who took up God's call with faith and love and dedication and touches the inner lives of others in ways that transform them for the better. A saint is always someone through whose life we learn what God is like - and of what we are called to be. Only God 'makes' saints.

**Qualities of a Saint:** an excellent role model; unusually good at teaching people to live lives of goodness; act as channels of God's grace; intercessor; generous, unselfish behaviour; and have a special relation to all that is holy so that they are able to interpret God and holiness for others. A saint challenges us to seek new ways of discipleship in response to our own context. They remind us of the possibility of God's work in us.

## St TERESA of CALCUTTA

- \*known as Mother Theresa
- \*born: 1910– died 1997
- \*feast day: 5th September
- \*patronage: world youth day
- \*1929 joined an Irish convent and was sent to work in India
- \* 1950 she founded the Missionaries of Charity
- \*dedicated herself to helping the poor, sick and the outcasts
- \*she offered powerful witness to holiness
- \*1979 awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- \*2016 canonized by Pope Francis

## St JOHN PAUL the GREAT

- \*known as Pope John Paul II
- \*born: 1920– died 2005
- \*feast day: 22nd October
- \*motto: totally yours
- \*patronage: world youth day
- \*1978 was elected Pope
- \*1962 took part in the Second Vatican Council and contributed two of its most historic and influential products, the *Decree on Religious Freedom (Dignitatis humanae)* and the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)*
- \*2014 canonized by Pope Francis

## St ELIZABETH of the TRINITY

- \*born: 1880– died 1906
- \*Feast day: 8th November
- \*patronage: illness, loss of parents
- \*1901 joined the Carmelite order
- \*was a gifted pianist, mystic and spiritual writer
- \*dedicated herself to helping the sick and taught religion to children who worked in factories
- \*she accepted her suffering as a gift from God
- \* Her final words were "I am going to light, to love, to life!"
- \*2016 canonized by Pope Francis

## St MANUEL GONZALEZ GARCIA

- \*known as bishop of Palencia
- \*born: 1877– died 1940
- \*feast day: 4th January
- \*patronage: disciples of St John
- \*1901 ordained a priest
- \*earned doctorates in theology and canon law
- \*dedicated himself to Eucharistic works in praise of Jesus Christ
- \*dedicated himself to helping the disadvantaged, the working class families and educating children
- \*1910 established the Disciples of Saint John
- \*2016 canonized by Pope Francis

GENEROUS      COURAGEOUS  
PRAYERFUL    FORGIVING    RISK TAKERS  
HUMBLE      COMPASSIONATE    KIND  
DEDICATED TO  
GOD'S CALL  
PEOPLE OF THEIR  
TIME  
LOVING



# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Parish and Family

### SAINTS FOR OUR LIVES TODAY!

Choose a saint \_\_\_\_\_

Year of birth? \_\_\_\_\_

Born in which country? \_\_\_\_\_

Was made a saint because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In life today:** If this saint lived in Australia today, what would he or she speak out about or do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(from *Echoing the Word* Vol 12 No 4, 2013)

**PRAYER OF PRAISE WITH THE SAINTS** from pg 5 can also be used in this context

### SERVICE BASKETS

Past and present saints live a life of service.

Brainstorm practical ways we can be of service to God and others:

- Food for the poor
- Cleaning the Church or decorating
- Speak to someone at our school or Church we haven't said hello to yet.
- Help out at home
- Pray for people in need
- Look out for people at our Church and school who are new

For Sacrament Program, Post Sacrament Catechesis or Weekly Parish Formation

In looking at lives of Saints of the past or of today, assist young people to identify key characteristics and qualities that made the person special and understand their relevance for life today.

For example, if St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was a voice for the poor in her time, who would she speak out for today and where would she use her time, energy and resources?



Mary MacKillop was faithful, trusted God, preserved, worked for others and showed great love.

How does the story of her life help us and others to be stronger in our faith and to help others who are less fortunate?

(extracts from *Echoing the Word* Vol 12 No 4, 2013)



**'LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU'  
(JESUS)**

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## within the Family

Assist your children to understand that the reason we retell the stories of saints today is to help us live the Gospel message more fully.

Watch a dvd or read a book of a saint (Some ideas from the resources on page 7 for you to borrow)

- **What does the saint tell us about what is important?**
- **What does the saint teach us about how we need to live today?**
- **How does each saint live the values that Jesus promoted?**
- **How does help us make choices about the values we live today?**

(adapted from Echoing the Word Vol 12 No 4, 2013)

### PRAYER OF PRAISE WITH THE SAINTS

Let us remember saints who showed the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives and praise them in honour of their inspiring example.

After each below we pray: **We praise God**

- LOVE:** For Saint Joseph who worked hard and cared lovingly of Mary and Jesus
- JOY:** For Saint Hildegard of Bingen who composed beautiful music to teach her community to pray to God with great joy
- PEACE:** For Saint Edith Stein who was never afraid to speak out against injustice and who longed for peace in our world
- PATIENCE:** For Saint Paul who showed patience and perseverance with the early Christian communities he founded
- KINDNESS:** For Saint Vincent de Paul who showed kindness by providing practical help to the hungry, sick and homeless
- GOODNESS:** For Saint Damien who from the goodness of his heart gave up his life to bring the message of Jesus and practical help to people suffering from leprosy on the island of Molakai
- FAITHFULNESS:** For Saint Joan of Arc who faithfully trusted the voice of God in her life and always acted in accordance with her conscience
- HUMILITY:** For Saint Francis of Assisi who showed us how to live a simple and humble life and to be gentle with all creation
- SELF-CONTROL:** For Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop who lived simply and with self-control to provide education and schools for poor children

We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.** (slightly adapted from Echoing the Word Vol 12 No 4, 2013)

# CATECHISTS' PRAYER

## **PRAYER CHOICES FOR PERSONAL PRAYER OR GATHERINGS**

*(END EACH PRAYER WITH We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN)*

### **Prayer as We Continue Serving**

Lord, you call us to your service and continue your saving work among us. May your love never abandon us.

### **Prayer For Active Good Works**

God of love, bring us back to you, Send your Spirit to make us strong in faith and active in good works.

### **Prayer for Hearts to Serve**

God of mercy, unite your Church in the Holy Spirit that we may serve you with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love.

### **Prayer For Our Work**

Father, may everything we do begin with your inspiration, and continue with your saving help. Let our work always find its origin in you, and through you reach completion.

### **Prayer For Strength and Joy**

Almighty and ever-living God, our source of power and inspiration, give us strength and joy in serving you as followers of Christ.

### **Prayer To Be Eager To Serve**

Lord, be merciful to your people. Fill us with your gifts and make us always eager to serve you in faith, hope and love.

### **Prayer to be Faithful in Serving**

Father of all that is good, keep us faithful in serving you, for to serve you is our lasting joy.

### **Prayer to Lovingly Serve Others**

God our Father, yours is the beauty of creation and the good things you have given us. Help us to begin this day joyfully in your name and to spend it in loving service of you and all whom we encounter.

### **Prayer to Serve God With Love**

Lord, help us to follow the example of saints who have gone before so that we may serve You with love and be filled with your joy.

### **Prayer To Serve With All Our Hearts**

God of mercy, unite your Church in the Holy Spirit that we may serve you with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love.

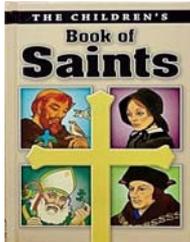
### **Prayer To Serve You**

Almighty God, our creator and guide, may we serve you with all our heart and know your forgiveness in our lives. who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

# RESOURCES

## SAINTS – Picture Books, Activity Books & DVD

### Selected Resources available at CRIS



**The Children's Book of SAINTS**  
[Picture book]

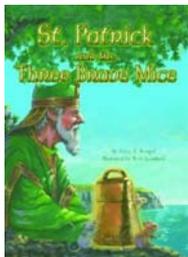
by Louis M. Savary  
270.0922 SAV



**St. Therese: The Little Flower**

[Picture book]

By Alice Joyce Davidson  
282.092 DAV



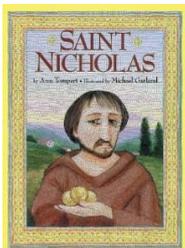
**St Patrick and the Three Blave Mice**  
[Picture book]

by Joyce A. Stengel  
270.2092 STE



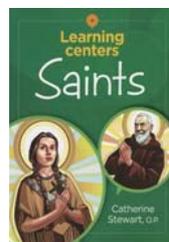
**The Saints – Our Heavenly Friends**  
[DVD]

Brother Francis Series  
270.0922 BRO



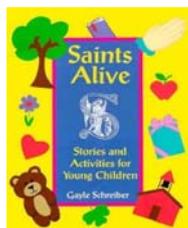
**Saint Nicholas**  
[Picture Book]

by Ann Tompert  
270.0922 TOM



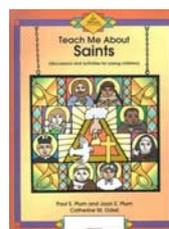
**SAINTS (Learning Centers)**  
*Catechist's pg. for Gr 1-3*  
*Catechist's pg. for Gr 4-6*  
**Activity book**

By Catherine Stewart  
270.0922 STE



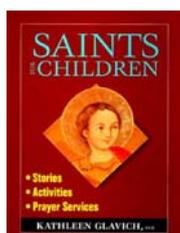
**Saints Alive: Stories and Activities for Young Children**

by Gayle Schreiber  
270.0922 SCH



**Teach me about SAINTS**  
(discussions and activities for young children)

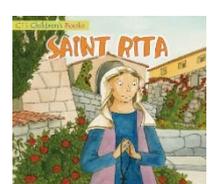
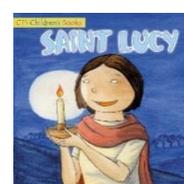
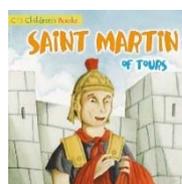
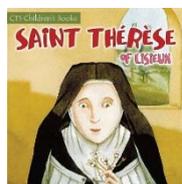
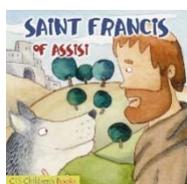
by Paul S. Plum  
270.0922 PLU



**SAINTS for Children**  
-Stories, Activities & Prayer Services

By Kathleen Glavich  
270.0922 GLA

**CTS Saints for Kids: A New range of modern, colourful and affordable books that will help children to make friends with the most exciting people who ever lived – the Saints! Read with children aged 5 and up. Independent reading from age 8. [see below]**



# Your Parish Story

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY of the WORD

Regular training is an important aspect to Children's Liturgy of the World (CLOW) and the Salisbury Catholic Parish runs CLOW in 3 Mass Centres, over 5 Masses during a weekend with roughly 100 school aged children on their faith journey attending each weekend. Our leaders break open God's Word for the children at age appropriate level.

On Thursday evening of the 15th June 2017 training occurred led by Carmen. A group of 20 seasoned and new leaders from the



Salisbury Parish and Modbury/Para Hills Parish gathered for a night of interactive development, learning and networking.

These training sessions are a great opportunity to meet and connect with volunteers and make sure everything is running as it should but also provide time to socialise, learn and further develop the necessary skills for this ministry.

Having done this training three times myself, I still pick up new things to implement within our Program, we are always looking to improve the program and training like this assists that.

*DAMIEN WALKER*  
Children's Liturgy Coordinator  
Salisbury Catholic Parish

*Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can*

**John Wesley**

## Children's Ministry Update

### Family & Parish Based Catechesis

Catholic Education Office  
112 Kintore Street Thebarton

PO Box 179  
Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

Carmen Balales Ph: 08 8301 6110  
carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc Ph: 08 8301 6195  
jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Office Fax: 08 8301 6842

We're on the web



[www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis)

### Detailed Diary Dates 2017

#### **CPR 4 RE (Years 4-8): STRATEGIES TO ENLIVEN RE CLASSES**

**When:** Thursday: July 13th

**Where:** Catholic Education Office  
Conference Centre,  
116 George Street, Thebarton

#### **GOD OF THE NATURAL WORLD WITH MONSIGNOR DENIS EDWARDS**

**When:** Thursday: July 20th 7-9pm

**Where:** Mary MacKillop Centre,  
4 High Street, Kensington

#### **PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE with Val DeBrenni cj**

**When:** Saturday: July 29th

**Where:** Mary MacKillop Centre,  
4 High Street, Kensington

*We serve God, by serving others*

