

# Apostolic Briefings and Communications



Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Villa Maria House of Studies  
Immaculata, Pennsylvania 19345-0200

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## *Catholic Schools*



## *Raise the Standards*

# *IN THIS ISSUE*

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*Fall, 2012*

**Cover** Sister Monica Therese Sicilia, I.H.M.

**IHM Best Practices** Sister Margaret Rose Adams, I.H.M

**For Teachers:** Sister Adrienne Saybolt, I.H.M.  
**“Helping K-2 Students Struggling with Reading and Writing”**

**Prime Times** Sister Rita James Murphy, I.H.M.

**Good Writer’s Club** Sister Theresa Duffy, I.H.M.  
**Good Writer’s Club Certificates**

**Technology:** Sister Jo-Ann Abate, I.H.M  
**“The First Few Days and Technology”**

**Religious Education Section** Sister Helene Thomas, I.H.M.





## **HELPING K-2 STUDENTS STRUGGLING WITH READING AND WRITING**

Sister Adrienne Saybolt, I.H.M. [asaybolt@msn.com](mailto:asaybolt@msn.com)

**Reading:** The ear develops before the eye. Therefore, children learn language first by hearing, not by sight. Remembering that phonemic awareness happens first, let us begin with reading by offering some hearing tips.

Children learn language and speaking patterns through conversation that includes good grammar and proper syntax. *Always* avoid any pattern that hints of “baby talk”! Children do not acquire good patterns by playing computer games (educational though they may be), or by texting as they grow older. That is why experts tell us to discipline ourselves not to talk down to little ones. Rather never hesitate to elevate the vocabulary level and use complex sentences as the year progresses. This is not counterproductive for struggling learners! Another helpful technique is self-talk. The teacher thinks out loud in a stage whisper about how to construct a sentence or solve a problem e.g. “I think I need to read that again because it didn’t make sense to me”. When a child perceives the teacher as struggling through a passage or needing to practice, it eases the pressure of thinking he/she has to be perfect the first time.

As an alternate to your own voice or that of an aide when reading aloud, explore the website [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net). This is a free web-site done by the Screen Actors Guild where you will find famous celebrities reading children’s literature. Many of our students don’t have the advantage of an adult reading to them, so this is a wonderful resource.

As alphabetical awareness grows, children will be able to apply their growing fluency in a more rapid manner. Beware though: speed is not the goal. Comprehension is the goal. As teachers we have so much to accomplish in a day that we can begrudge “wasting time” having students reread a passage for fluency and expression. Don’t punish yourself that way, because the time is certainly not wasted.

Do you ever feel as if you need an inexpensive gimmick to help students with their letter sounds and combinations? Here are two which I learned from Joan Aldrich Knight (Bureau of Education and Research):

1) Use a plastic set of letter and hot glue the *k* to the *n*. Paint the *k* white (because it’s a silent ghost). Do the same with *w* and *r*, painting the *w* in white for the same reason. Because they never come apart it signals the eye that they travel together and make one sound. When you are working on ending sounds, glue *-ed* or *-ing* together. After your teaching lessons, the students can work at a center building those endings on base words.

2) Save the cardboard tubes from rolls of paper towels. These become telescopes and students go on a scavenger hunt through a passage (e.g. the Morning Message) to find all the sounds you have been working on (e.g. *-ay*).

Example: Today is Monday. It is raining so we must stay inside. Do you know any games we can play?

**Writing:** There are always those who have trouble finding a topic. Many times we give a sentence starter or a general idea. For these learners, try giving a *very specific* sentence starter. “*I know about...*” “*I think \_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_ so that’s why \_\_\_\_.*”

To cut down on interruptions while you are working with another group, post all the correct spellings of color words, months, days of the week on the word wall. As that wall grows, consider categories other than alphabetical order. Remember these are the students who have trouble reading so they might not be able to spot the word in that order. How about categories like *family, pets, holidays*? If a child doesn’t know that *grandmother* begins with *g*, he’s lost. At least focusing on the family category, he stands a chance. Ask the student what sound is in the middle of grand**M**other. That way you are helping without spoon feeding, and the student may be able to distinguish more easily between grandmother and grandfather – both long words. Most of us do not spell every word for the children, but ask them to do the best they can, and that we’ll be back soon to check. This temporary spelling allows them to move on instead of getting stuck trying to write, when writing is a source of frustration to begin with!

To develop a story, have the children “pass the pen” (or marker, if you are recording on chart paper). You start the story. Pass the pen to the next child who adds an idea. Keep passing the pen until each person in the group has had a turn. You may want to add a wrap-up sentence yourself. Don’t worry if the result is a silly story. The point is that these strugglers are getting experience putting ideas on paper.

The next issue of the ABCs will pursue more of these reading and writing tips for the struggling learners. If you have an idea which you could share to help teachers in these two areas, feel free to email me at the above address. I will gladly pass them on and credit you.

# PRIME TIMES



Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Immaculata, Pennsylvania 19345

August, 2012

## Welcome Back!

(Tune: "You Are My Sunshine")

The Summer's over – no more vacation,  
But I have had a lot of fun!  
And I am happy, and I'm excited  
'Cause now at last the school year has  
begun!



## The ABC's of Summer

Brainstorm with students a list of their  
summer of activities. Write ideas on  
chalkboard, Smartboard or chart paper.

Assign or allow each child to choose a letter of the  
alphabet and on a 12"X18" or 8<sup>1/2</sup>"X11" sheet of paper  
the child will complete this sentence at the top of paper:  
*(Alphabet letter) is for (a word or phrase from  
the list that begins with that particular letter.)*

The child then illustrates the idea. Have class assist in  
assembling pages in  
alphabetical order to create a  
book: *The ABC's of Summer*.  
You can place book in  
classroom library, school  
library or post outside  
classroom to create an early  
sense of accomplishment for  
your students!

**B** is for beach days  
of fun.



## Prayer Poem

Jesus, help me to be good,  
Loving others as I should,  
Telling the truth and playing fair,  
Smiling gladly when I share,  
Giving joy in all I do  
Because I want to be like You!

## God Made Us the Same

(Tune: "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean")

In our class we have many children,  
We're different but really the same.  
In our class we have many children,  
And we know every person by name.

But inside, inside, yes, inside our hearts  
We're the same, the same –  
Inside, inside,  
It's inside God made us the same!



## Ten Little Fingers



I have ten little fingers  
They all belong to me;  
I can make them do things.  
Would you like to see?  
I can shut them up tight;  
I can open them wide;  
I can put them together;  
I can make them hide;  
I can make them jump high;  
I can make them jump low;  
I can put them together

And hold them just so! *(Folded for prayer!)*

## Numbers Are Fun!

Numbers are fun whatever you do;  
First comes one and then comes two.  
After two comes three and four; then comes five  
Now count once more: 1,2,3,4,5!

You can count to five – that's fine!  
Number six is next in line;  
Then comes seven, eight, nine and ten  
Now let's stop and count again:  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10!



## Brown Bag it!

As a way of introducing yourself to your class on the first day of school, bring a brown bag full of items that tell about yourself. Share these with your students. They could be things that tell about your family, a hobby, travels, an embarrassing moment, etc. Then, as a homework assignment for the first night or first week of school, give each child a brown lunch bag, with the poem below attached:

### My Little Brown Bag

*In this brown bag you will find,  
Things that show I'm one of a kind,  
5 items of stuff I like,  
My family, friends, a hobby, or bike.  
So when I share these things with you,  
You'll find out things you never knew!*



Have children bring their bags full of 5 items to share with their classmates during first days of school. This is a fun way to get to know one another and find common interests!



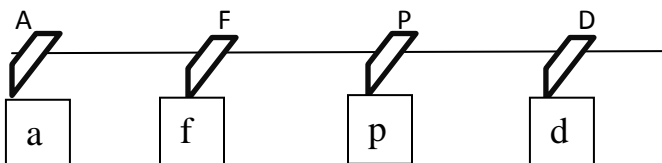
### Action Phonics

Determine an action for a beginning letter sound that the children can demonstrate:

- Explain that *dance* and *dot* have the same beginning sound.
- Tell students that whenever you say a word with the same beginning sound as *dance* that they begin to dance.
- Add words that have the same beginning sound as *jump*, *hop*, *tap*, *run*, *wave*, etc.
- Use as a review activity for beginning sounds.

### Letter Line-up

String a clothesline in classroom and attach plastic colored clothespins labeled A to Z. Drill matching upper case and lower case letters by having children match cards to pins. Just mix up the clip pins to reinforce ABC order as well.



## Peace is Not... (Poem for remembering 9/11)

Peace is not a big, long word  
That I can't spell.  
It's got five letters – only five!  
And I can spell quite well.



Peace is not a big, long word  
Too hard to understand.  
I asked my teacher if I could hold Peace  
Here inside my hand.

She told me Peace is not a thing  
You hold and touch and feel,  
I asked my teacher how this Peace  
Could be a thing that's real?

She told me something simple,  
That I will not forget.  
She said that even though we've tried,  
Our world is not peaceful yet.

So now I know that Peace  
Is not just a little word.  
I have learned to spell it –  
And my voice will soon be heard!



I may be just a child and have  
Lots more to learn and see.  
But I know that Peace begins with Love...  
And Love is inside of me!

## Focus on RESPECT



Teaching respect in our Catholic schools is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who lived and taught the meaning of respecting all persons. Help students make a list/chart/poster of ideas that describe how they show respect for one another:

- Treat others as you like to be treated.
- Use kind words about others.
- Use good manners. (*Please, thank you, I'm sorry, etc.*)
- Pick up belongings.
- Return items you borrow.
- Use titles for grown-ups. (*Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.*)
- Let others go first.



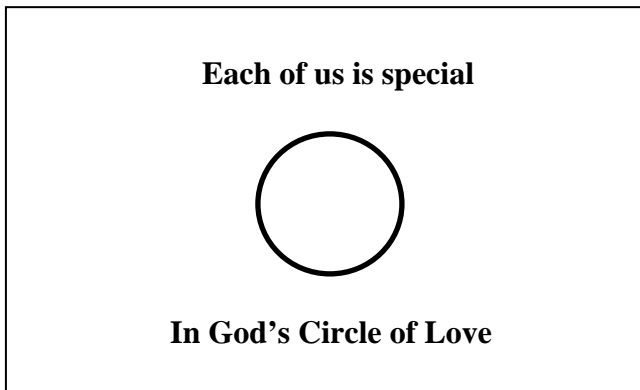
## Following Directions



Touch your left knee, then your right:  
Touch your left thumb of small height.  
Raise your right hand to the sky;  
With your right hand, touch your eye.  
Now, please shake hands with a friend;  
Touch your left foot down at the end.  
Touch your left ear, then your shoulder;  
Wave your left hand before you're older.  
Touch your right leg and left hip;  
Touch your head then your lower lip.  
Raise your left hand then your right;  
Clap both hands with all your might!

## Bulletin Board Idea

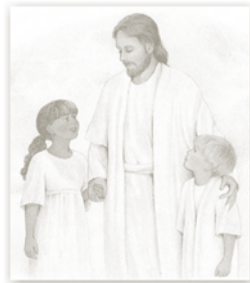
Give each student in the class a cut form of a child. Invite students to dress (color) the figures to look themselves. Be sure to include one for the teacher! When all students are finished their figures assemble bulletin board with figures in a circle.



## Jesus Loves Children

(Tune: "Oh, Susanna")

Our Jesus sat with children  
By the Sea of Galilee,  
And He often placed a little one  
Right there upon his knee.  
And He talked with them  
And showed them  
The Christian way to live.  
Dear Jesus loved each little face;  
No matter what his race.



Oh, dear Jesus,  
I'm happy as can be  
To think you love all boys and girls  
The same as You love me!

## Johnny Appleseed Sept. 26, 1774 – John Chapman's Birthday

### A Choral Reading

1. Born back in seventeen seventy-four,  
Gentle John Chapman lives through folklore
2. He loved all creature – all bears, birds & bees,  
But what he loved best were his apple trees.

#### Chorus:

Oh, gentle Johnny of Appleseed fame,  
Barefoot into this great country you came.  
We hear the heartwarming story today  
Of apple seeds that you sowed on your way.

3. He walked alone across mountain and plain  
Carrying apple seeds through snow and rain.
4. He planted orchards with bags full of seed,  
Apple trees pioneer families would need.  
(Chorus)
5. Alone Johnny lived in his great forest home,  
With wild animals he'd play and roam.
6. Friend to each Indian and pioneer,  
Bugs and bears, fish and wolves,  
Raccoons, moose and deer. (Chorus)
7. Next time dessert is plump apple pie,  
Or someone says "You're the apple of my eye."
8. Remember Johnny with his great big plan  
Of growing apple trees throughout the land.  
(Chorus)

### Related Apple Activities

#### Language Arts:

- Discuss exaggeration vs. reality when reading about Johnny Appleseed.
- List steps to get apples from the orchard to the market.

#### Science:

- Teach parts of a tree and an apple.
- Look at apple seeds with a magnifying glass or under a microscope.

#### Math:

- Predict the number of seeds in an apple.
- Graph favorite apple foods.

#### Social Studies:

- Use a map to find places where Johnny Appleseed planted apple seeds.

#### Religion:

- Have students complete the sentence:  
I know I am the "the apple of God's eye"  
because \_\_\_\_\_.

## Dance of the Leaves

*Solo:* The autumn leaves are dancing down

*Refrain:* Dance, leaves, dance!

*Solo:* Leaves of crimson, gold and brown

*Refrain:* Dance, leaves, dance!

*Solo:* Let the wind whirl you around,  
Make a carpet for the ground.  
Soon you'll sleep without a sound!



*Refrain:* Dance, leaves, dance!

## Some More Bulletin Board Ideas...

**A Bushel of Fun** - Use a bushel basket drawing on the bulletin board and fill it with goods from the Fall harvest season (squash, pumpkins...) then change out items in basket as year progresses.

**We Love This School** - individual names printed on identical fish, use a blue background and other sea life for a school of fish



**Falling into Place (or Fall into Learning)** - Autumn theme with a tree and different gold, red and brown shades of leaves falling to the ground, use students names if desired

**Everybody Fits in Here** - design a large-scale colorful jigsaw puzzle, put students' names on individual puzzle pieces

**The Sign of Good Things to Come** - design different road signs and street signs with regular events and dates listed (for instance: All-School Yard Sale, September 20th, see Mrs. Smith to donate items), list all important upcoming dates so students can be reminded of the fun stuff to look forward to.

**Nuts About School** - use acorn and squirrel graphics

**We're a Colorful Class** - paint buckets with paint brushes and student's names on different colors of construction paper cut to look like paint spills.

## We Have Rules

We have rules. We have rules.  
Rules to keep us safe at school.  
We use inside voices and walking feet,  
(*point to mouth, then to feet*).  
We don't touch or bother the friends we meet.  
(*Hug self and shake head*)  
And when we're eating we stay in our seats,  
(*sit and pretend to eat*)  
'Cause we have rules  
At our school.

*Priscilla M.. Starrett*

## October

October's the month  
When the smallest breeze  
Gives us a shower  
Of autumn leaves.  
Bonfires and pumpkins,  
Leaves sailing down -  
October is red  
And golden and brown.



## When Should I Pray?

Should I pray in the morning?  
Should I only pray at night?  
Should I only pray when it's dark outside?  
In my room when I turn out the light?

Or can I pray whenever I want to?  
When I hear God talking to me?  
I don't always have to pray in a church  
And I don't have to be on knees.

So I'll pray when I have a question,  
And there are things that I've got to sort out.  
But I'll also pray when I just want to talk  
And tell God what I'm thinking about.

## Before and After

At the beginning of the school year file away samples of student papers. Around May, fix a bulletin board of "paper pairs" to allow students to see first hand their own progress during the school year.

## Christopher Columbus

(Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.  
With three tall ships, 120 men  
Sailing on, sailing on, sailing on, on, on, on –  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.



He proved the earth was round,  
not flat in 1492.  
He proved the earth was round,  
not flat in 1492.  
With three tall ships, 120 men,  
Sailing on, sailing on, sailing on,  
on, on, on –  
He proved the earth was round,  
not flat in 1492.

## Three Minute Brain Breaks

These are great to use anytime your students are feeling restless and are struggling to pay attention. Most of these will only take a few minutes, and then you can get back to the lesson with your students ready to focus on the lesson at hand.



- **5-4-3-2-1.** In this simple game, students stand up and the teacher (or leader) has them do five different movements in descending order. For example the teacher would say: "Do five jumping jacks, spin around four times, hop on one foot three times, walk all the way around the classroom two times, give your neighbor one high-five (pausing in between each task for students to do it).
- **Dance Party!** Put on some rockin' music and dance! If you can make the room semi-dark and have a black light or other special effect, your kids will love it!
- **Keep it Up:** Students must keep a balloon or beach ball from hitting the ground. Add two or three balls to make it even more fun.
- **Simon Says** An oldie but a goody!
- **Line Up!** Have students line up using a specific criteria such as age (use day and month, not just year), height, alphabetically by middle name, hair length, etc.

## Name Check

Prior to collecting students' papers say, "If your name is on your paper, place a check beside it." After students are familiar with this procedure, shorten the reminder to "Name check!" No more nameless papers!



## Transition to Reading Song

(Tune: "London Bridges")

Reading time is here again,  
here again, here again.  
Reading time is here again  
We love READING!



Words and letters we can do,  
we can do, we can do.  
Words and letters we can do  
We love READING!

## Halloween Carnival



Plan a Halloween Carnival for your class, grade or school. Create a spirit of sharing, insure the safety of your "trick or treaters" as well as provide a service project for your students. Each child could pay a small admission to be donated to the Missions.

- Invite 8<sup>th</sup> graders or Confirmation class to assist
- Have parent volunteers plan refreshments for the afternoon of Halloween or day closest to it.
- Plan games such as: Ghost Bingo, Pin the Nose on the Witch, Face Painting, Guess the weight of a Pumpkin, Math Facts with candy corn, etc.
- Read a scary Halloween story.

## Halloween Websites

[www.theworlds.com/halloween](http://www.theworlds.com/halloween)

allows students to have an interactive experience of cutting their own pumpkin to make a jack-o-lantern!

[www.apples4theteacher](http://www.apples4theteacher) provides many interactive Halloween Math games.

[www.funschool.kaboose.com/fun-blasters/halloween/](http://www.funschool.kaboose.com/fun-blasters/halloween/) has games and activities.



## Election Campaign Button



With election day on November 6<sup>th</sup>, have children think about what their “platform” would be if a student were President. Along with using their imaginations, try to tap children’s sense of justice and freedom. Invite them to integrate values with creativity in order to work for a peaceful world.



## Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

1. All humans are sacred.
2. Families & communities are called to be life-givers.
3. Human persons have rights and responsibilities.
4. The poor and vulnerable deserve dignity and care.
5. Workers have rights and dignity.
6. The whole world is called to solidarity.
7. We must care for Earth which supports us in life.



## I Like to Be Nice



I like to be nice to all people at school;  
It makes them feel great  
And I know it’s the rule!

ClipartOf.com/1110198

Being thoughtful of others is something I do.  
I look when they speak and I listen well, too.

Before I do, before I say,  
I think: “Would I like to be treated this way?”

## Thanksgiving Song

(Tune: “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”)



We are thankful for good things  
God has sent and so we sing,  
Food and families, friends and snow,  
Flowers, trees and things that grow.  
Thank You, God, for all Your care;  
Help us now to love and share!

## Turkey Triplet

Introduce the following triplet to your class:

Turkey green, turkey yellow,  
Turkey says,  
“You’re a fine fellow!”

Explain to students that this three-line rhyme is called a “turkey note” which has been a Thanksgiving custom in Iowa since the 1890’s.

Brainstorm words that rhyme with various colors and write list on Smartboard or chalkboard. (e.g. blue/dew, pink/sink, brown/town, red/bed, green/mean, etc.)



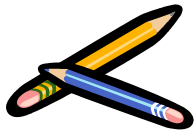
Have students write a “turkey note” on an outline of a turkey, substituting their favorite colors for the underlined words above and writing an original third line.

## Turkey Tales

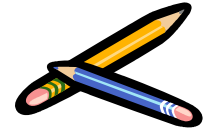
These titles are sure to spark student interest as well as many integrated learning activities:

- ***Perky Turkey’s Perfect Plans*** by Judy Goodspeed
- ***A Plump and Perky Turkey*** by Teresa Bateman
- ***I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie*** by Alison Jackson
- ***Thanks & Giving: All Year Long*** by Marlo Thomas
- ***P is for Pilgrim: A Thanksgiving Alphabet*** by Carol Crane
- ***If You Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620*** by Ann McGovern





# Good Writers' Club



The Good Writers' Club is designed to assist teachers in:

- providing motivation
- developing skills of legible handwriting
- establishing a means for a sense of achievement
- fostering pride in daily work.

We encourage a continued effort in all grades in providing daily instruction and encouragement in:

- correct letter formation
- uniform height and width of letters
- uniform slant
- proper alignment
- neat and clean work
- good margins
- a specified arrangement of papers.

There is no longer a FORMAL REGISTRATION to participate in the program.

We are fully aware that even though registrations were not formally submitted, many schools have been participating, which is **ADDITIONAL GOOD NEWS!**

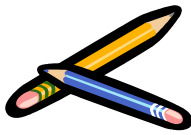
Monthly samples will be provided in the *ABC Notes*.

Within each school, a designated evaluator could be chosen, or classroom teachers may evaluate within the grade to choose those students of the month who have exhibited good writing skills. Perhaps a "Good Writers of the Month" Bulletin Board could display work and/or names in order to heighten motivation. Certificates can be distributed.

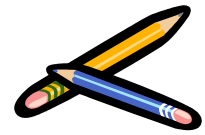
A sample certificate page is included in these *ABC Notes* for your convenience to print on cardstock.

Thank you for all you do to encourage and foster these good writing skills in your students on a daily basis.





# IHM GOOD WRITERS CLUB



## RATIONALE FOR THE CLUB

1. To assist teachers in providing motivation
2. To develop skills of legible handwriting; provide means for a sense of achievement; foster pride in daily work

## TIPS FOR TEACHERS

1. Select a definite objective for each lesson.
2. Allocate a specific item for penmanship each day.
3. Study techniques outlined in your Teacher's Manual, noting the letter formation peculiar to your series (Palmer, Noble, Zaner Blozer).
4. Provide thorough instruction by demonstrating size, shape, and slant.

## EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. <b>SHAPE</b>      | correct formation of letters  |
| 2. <b>SIZE</b>       | uniform, correct height and width of letters                          |
| 3. <b>SLANT</b>      | uniform, diagonal slope of strokes                                    |
| 4. <b>ALIGNMENT</b>  | tangency to baseline with down-strokes                                |
| 5. <b>APPEARANCE</b> | neat, clean work; proper margins; and specified arrangement of papers |

*Classes should come to an accord on one alphabet.*



# IHM Good Writers Club



Grades 3 & 4

## OCTOBER

Twenty-five cents,  
Money that rhymes,  
Take one nickel,  
Add two dimes.

## NOVEMBER

Dear God, hear my evening prayer.  
I thank you for your love and care.

Grades 5 & 6

## OCTOBER

Reading is to the mind  
What exercise is to the body.

Sir Richard Steele

## NOVEMBER

What really matters  
Is what you do  
With what you have.

Shirley Lord

Grades 7 & 8

## OCTOBER

Always be trustworthy  
Care about others.  
Take responsibility for your actions.

## NOVEMBER

It takes the best in each of us  
To bring out the best in all of us.



## DECEMBER

Grades 3 & 4

Three Wise Men  
Came from afar,  
Led by night  
By one bright star.

Grades 5 & 6

On a cold winter night  
With no place to stay,  
Jesus was born  
In a manger of hay.

---

Grades 7 & 8

Three Wise Men  
All knelt and saw  
The love of God  
Asleep in the straw





PROFICIENCY IN PENMANSHIP



This certifies that

has attained that level of proficiency in penmanship  
required by the IHM GOOD WRITERS CLUB  
for Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
and thereby is entitled to this

**Certificate of Merit**

awarded by the IHM Good Writers Club

Date

Member of the official Board of Evaluators

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“EOE (Eye On Education) is an independent and innovative provider of books and other resources for the educational community. Our mission is to provide busy educators with practical information on professional development, educational leadership...”<sup>1</sup>

The following series of nine short excerpts of videos is from Dr. Todd Whitaker’s DVD on “Implementing School Change.” Both administrators and educators will find each of them thought provoking and simple to apply in their own classrooms.

Todd, also, wrote a book on “What Great Teachers Do Differently.” Todd Whitaker describes the beliefs, behaviors, attitudes, and interactions that form the fabric of life in our best classrooms and schools. He focuses on the specific things that great teachers do ... that others do not.

**“Interview Induction”**–Implementing School Change. Dr. Todd Whitaker explains how the interview is the perfect time to introduce a new change in your school. This is a 1:25 minute video, **#1 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXV8NRH1COE&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXV8NRH1COE&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“Setting Up for Success”** –Implementing School Change. Dr. Todd Whitaker speaks about setting up your faculty and staff for success, so that you can reinforce positive change and bring everybody on board. This is a 1:47 minute video, **#2 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>3</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V6vKRVnloE&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V6vKRVnloE&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“The Power of Emotion”** – Implementing School Change. Dr. Todd Whitaker speaks about how school leaders can harness the power of emotion when leading school change and overcoming resistance to change. This is a 2:09 minute video, **#3 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>4</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7gz1dibs2c&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7gz1dibs2c&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“On Strong Starts”** - Implementing School Change. Dr. Todd Whitaker speaks about the Importance of strong starts in introducing changes to your school. This is a 1:45 minute video, **#4 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>5</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuRc0iLAI5c&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuRc0iLAI5c&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eyoneducation.com/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXV8NRH1COE&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9&index=1&feature=plpp\\_video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXV8NRH1COE&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9&index=1&feature=plpp_video)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V6vKRVnloE&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V6vKRVnloE&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7gz1dibs2c&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7gz1dibs2c&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuRc0iLAI5c&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuRc0iLAI5c&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“Initial Exposure” - - Implementing School Change**. Dr. Todd Whitaker speaks about the Importance of a positive initial exposure to a new idea when implementing a change in a school. This is a 2:09 minute video, **#5 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>6</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFb4fK\\_GWD0&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFb4fK_GWD0&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“What Great Principals Do Differently” - Implementing School Change**. Dr. Todd Whitaker speaks on what are the specific qualities and practices of great principals which elevate them above the rest? Blending school-centered studies and experience working with hundreds of administrators, the author reveals the 15 things that the most successful principals do and that other principals do not. This is a 1:47 minute video, **#6 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>7</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJNRWEhbZRw&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJNRWEhbZRw&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“What Great Principals Differently: Part Two” – Implementing School Change**. Dr. Todd Whitaker speaks on what are the specific qualities and practices of great principals which elevate them above the rest? Blending school-centered studies and experience working with hundreds of administrators, the author reveals the 15 things that the most successful principals do and that other principals do not. This is a 1:32 minute video, **#7 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>8</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzOJXSVFOzs&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzOJXSVFOzs&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“What Great Teachers Do Differently: Part One”**– Whose the one person's behavior in the classroom that you have the ability to control and influence? Your own. This is a 1:50 minute video, **#9 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>9</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXCI2fMsdTU&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXCI2fMsdTU&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

**“What Great Teachers Do Differently: Part Two” -** Why do we care about great? Because we're in education. It's people, it's not programs. This is a 1:29 minute video, **#8 in a series of 9**, uploaded by EOE.<sup>10</sup>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWXwziQEa8w&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWXwziQEa8w&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFb4fK\\_GWD0&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFb4fK_GWD0&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJNRWEhbZRw&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJNRWEhbZRw&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzOJXSVFOzs&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzOJXSVFOzs&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXCI2fMsdTU&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXCI2fMsdTU&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWXwziQEa8w&feature=bf\\_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWXwziQEa8w&feature=bf_next&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9)

# THE FIRST FEW DAYS...and TECHNOLOGY

<sup>1</sup> “We must learn to see young people whole and to craft schools which address their reality.’ Thus, Sizer would assert that it is crucial that teachers are educated in, understand, and interact with the tech world of the modern child in order to best teach each individual child...”<sup>2</sup>

Teachers that have been teaching for many years often overlook the fact that each year they are NEW, too. It may not be their first year of teaching but they are the NEW teacher for their students. Every student, coming into their class, is new for the first time. These students will be watching and waiting for all the new and different exciting things they will learn in their new class with their new teacher. What teachers do the first week of school will set the pace for the rest of the year. The first few days of the new school year are very important! When planning the first few days remember to, also, include the procedures and curriculum expectations for technology.

One of the best ways to list the things a teacher should do the first week of the new school year is to find out what other teachers do. Michael Linsin, is such a teacher, and has some very practical best practices stated below. However, following each of Michael’s suggestions is one of mine in regards to technology.

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS** – The first day of school is about setting the tone. It’s about focusing on the first few steps leading to the most memorable school year your students have ever had. There is no room for weak first impressions, no room for indecisiveness, and no room to leave your students bored or uninspired. It’s best to think of the first day of school as a microcosm of the coming year. In other words, it should represent who you are and what you want your classroom to be.<sup>3</sup>

**IMPRESSIONS of TECHNOLOGY** – Here is where you pledge to use that SMART Board in your classroom. Motivate students by letting them know they will be using it in their subject areas. They will not only be presenting their projects but will be expected to team up and create the presentations in the SMART Notebook software. These boards were meant to be used by the students, too!

SMART Boards are for more than projecting interactive websites and educational games. Teachers prepare and project lessons on them to introduce or demonstrate concepts. Allow students to create spreadsheets for surveys and then demonstrate the results in a pie chart or bar graph? Timelines are great ways to exhibit the contributions of famous people in the **STEM** subjects. Inform them they will be using WORD processing by typing all assignments that will be handed into class, such as, those narrative and persuasive essays, poems, compositions, Haiku’s, resume’s, research projects, vocabulary definitions, summaries.

Have teams write and record short videos in SMART Flash or SMART Video to introduce some very important policies into the classroom. Let them present the rules for respecting one another, solving conflicts, ways to build up and help one another learn and experience success with difficult concepts. Compose simple videos with Animoto or Voki on preventing bullying in your school or Internet Safety.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thedailyriff.com/articles/use-your-mind-well-tech-192.php>.

<sup>2</sup> “Use Your Mind Well: Tech in Schools and the Educational Philosophy of Ted Sizer,” J. Robert Shirley, Ph.D.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.smartclassroommanagement.com/2012/07/21/7-keys-to-the-first-day-of-school/>

**SMILE** - you've likely heard the oft-repeated recommendation that teachers should never smile the first three months of the school year. The idea being that if you show kindness toward your students they'll see it as a weakness and take advantage of you. Hogwash. Although it's true students can and often do come to the conclusion that their teacher is a pushover, it has nothing to do with showing kindness. You're only a pushover if you don't do what you say you're going to do. The truth is, smiling is a powerful classroom management strategy you should begin using the first day of school.<sup>4</sup>

**KEEPING the SMILE in TECHNOLOGY** – I totally agree with Michael Linsin. There is nothing wrong with smiling on the first day of school. Students learn to manipulate teachers the same way they do other adults. They know the inconsistencies and weaknesses of adults. The error adults commit too often, is not sticking to what they say. Empty promises of a demerit or the loss of recess, or having detention, or calling a parent, without carrying through, only enable and reinforce the poor behavior.

However, there is one discipline carried out. It is withholding a student from computer class or from working on the computer with others because of some misdemeanor. This is definitely a punitive measure that deletes all the smiles! Unfortunately, it also applies to the tech teacher. Computer teachers have a curriculum. Teaching technology skills and applications are part of that curriculum. Classroom teachers are able to assign projects that require technology, without concern if the students know how to do it or not, because the tech teachers assist them by implementing the technology curriculum. Making up a missed class, is now the tech teacher's responsibility. This line of discipline is, not only, ineffective, but also, a lack of respect for the tech teacher as a colleague. Teachers can keep the smiles in technology by finding other ways to change their students' poor behavior.

**ROUTINES** - If your students know what to do and how to do it during every transitional or procedural moment of the school day, they can more easily attend to what is most important. Furthermore, adding more responsibility and purpose is a surefire way to boost morale. Well-executed routines also save time and lessen a teacher's workload. Instead of giving directions ad nauseam and talking students through transitions, passing out papers, leaving and entering the classroom, and dozens more, these tasks are automated into routines, allowing you to merely observe and focus your thoughts on the next activity. For everything your students do in your classroom repetitively, there should be a routine.<sup>5</sup>

**ROUTINES in TECHNOLOGY** – If you plan on using Netbooks, iPads or any other device in class it would be wise to set up the parameters for distributing and collecting them. Taking the time to practice "how-to" will save valuable teaching time. Anything less will decrease the effectiveness of your lesson. Do the same for coming and going to the computer lab.

**A PLAN** - Although you'll use the rest of the first week, to teach your classroom management plan in depth, it's important to give an overview of your rules and consequences on the first day. The reason is twofold. First, your students need to know your boundaries so you can begin enforcing them. Second, it's an opportunity to express your deep commitment to protect their right to learn and enjoy school without interference.<sup>6</sup>

**A PLAN in TECHNOLOGY** – When you lay down the rules and consequences for your classroom include the care and responsibility of using the technology equipment. The number of technology devices increases every year in our

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<sup>4</sup> ibid.

<sup>5</sup> ibid.

<sup>6</sup> ibid.

schools. Handling the devices with deference for school property is essential. Prompt students that technology devices are **“tools for education.”** Instruct them to handle the equipment and other students’ work with respect. Never download anything improper. Always value and be grateful their school provides them with the opportunities to learn and become all they can be.

Many schools already permit students to **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)**. This may be the way education will go for all students in the future. This defrays the cost of buying expensive equipment. Be sure to have an **AUP (Authentic User Policy)** in place. Be precise and make certain it encompasses who will be responsible for broken or stolen devices. Definitely have it signed by both the parents and the students. The consequences for violating such trust should be clear and concise.

**A LITTLE HUMOR** - Show your students that your sky-high expectations extend beyond behavior and academics. To be in your classroom also means to have fun. Small doses of humor throughout the day, a getting-to-know-you activity, a simple openness to enjoying your students—any of these will do. The idea is to establish a classroom environment that balances hard work with camaraderie, friendship, and joy. In other words, a classroom they look forward to coming to every day.<sup>7</sup>

**HUMOR IN TECHNOLOGY – Our students love technology!** They live in a world of technology. They use multiple devices every day. They talk for hours on their iPhones. They listen to their MP3s, MP4s and iPods. They use laptops, iPads, tablets, Nintendo’s, Wii’s, X-boxes. They are proficient at social networking on Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, Friendster, and Wikis. They play games with live partners online. They “poke” each other to chat. They eat, sleep, and drink technology 25/8. Is it any wonder they love it when teachers use technology that engages them? It **stimulates** their **interest**. It **encourages** them to **collaborate** with each other. It gives **confidence** to quiet students helping them to speak up. They **stay focused** for long periods of time, and when the session ends...they want to keep going. Technology in the classroom is fun for our students! Need I say more?? Okay, I will.....

**Technology in the classroom is fun!!!** So-o-o-o-o-o-o-o, what will YOU do with the first few days this new school year?

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<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...Cover Sheet**  
**I.H.M. ABC NOTES -- Fall, 2012**

**“YEAR OF FAITH”, Proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI**  
**October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013**

**USCCB CATECHETICAL THEME, 2012 – 2013**  
**Catechists and Teachers:**  
**Agents of the New Evangelization**



**CONTENTS**

**Cover Sheet**

*I.H.M. Office of Religious Education*

**Faculty/Staff Prayer to Begin a New Year (Full version and shorter version)**  
**Based on the “Year of Faith”**

*Sister Marianne Therese Lallone, I.H.M.*

**Faculty/Staff Prayer for Orientation Day**

*Based on the Catechetical Theme*

*I.H.M. Office of Religious Education*

**Ideas for Religion Bulletin Boards**

*I.H.M. Office of Religious Education*

**Catholic Resources**

*I.H.M. Office of Religious Education*

**Technology Resources for Religious Education**

*Sister Carolyn Ann Bennett, I.H.M.*

**Religious Education Treasures**

*Liturgy of the Word with Benediction: A Thanksgiving Celebration*

*Sister Kathleen Marie Metz, I.H.M.*

**Seek First the Kingdom...Parents Sharing Faith with Their Children**

*Commandment Loving*

*Sister Patricia M. McCormack, I.H.M.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Many thanks to those who contributed creative Religious Education ideas to this *Fall Issue*. Their creativity has certainly enhanced this publication!

**FACULTY/STAFF PRAYER TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR**  
(COMPLETE VERSION)  
*Based on the “Year of Faith”, Proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI*



**CALL TO PRAYER**

As we begin this new year of ministry, let us look to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, for direction and inspiration. With his Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict has declared a “Year of Faith” to begin on October 11, 2012. This significant date marks the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

It is our privileged responsibility as teachers and catechists to teach our students the riches of our Catholic faith. Let us remember that “the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. All evangelizing activity is understood as promoting communion with Jesus Christ.” (GDC 80) Our vocation is to make disciples. We do this as we bear witness to the joy and peace we have found in living our life in Christ, inspiring and leading those in our care to know the Lord’s loving presence in their lives, leading them to deeper communion with Him through prayer and the sacraments.

This Year of Faith is to be a “summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord.” As we are called to lead others to Christ, let us see this Year of Faith as an opportunity to deepen our own faith and our own relationship with the Lord, and to strengthen our commitment to sharing this faith with others. Let us call upon our loving God today and every day, asking him to increase our faith and to give us the grace to know him, to love him, and to serve him more and more.

**OPENING SONG**

Choose *one* of these or another suitable hymn:

“Center of My Life”      “Jesus, Lord”      “Seek Ye First”      “We Walk by Faith”

**SCRIPTURE READING** – John 17: 3-6; 17-26

**REFLECTING ON “PORTA FIDEI”**

**Reader:** There is a “need to rediscover the journey of faith as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ.” We must “set out to lead people... toward the place of life, toward friendship with the Son of God, toward the one who gives us life, and life in abundance.” (PF 2)

**All:** *Lord Jesus, renew in me the joy that comes from knowing you. Help me to companion my students on their journey of faith, so that they may encounter you as Savior and as Friend.*

**Reader:** “The renewal of the Church is also achieved through the witness offered by the lives of believers: by their very existence in the world. Christians are called to radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.” (PF 6)

**All:** *Lord Jesus, you are the Truth, revealing the way to the Kingdom. Help me to grow in holiness and guide me in proclaiming your Gospel message in my all words and actions.*

*(over)*



(2)

**Reader:** “It is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize... Through his love, Jesus Christ attracts to himself the people of every generation. Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful, because it expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness: indeed, it opens the hearts and minds of those who listen to respond to the Lord’s invitation to adhere to his word and become disciples.” (PF 7)

**All:** *Lord Jesus, fill my heart with your spirit of love, so that I may radiate that love to others and so lead them closer to you.*

**Reader:** “The heart indicates that the first act by which one comes to faith is God’s gift and the action of grace which acts and transforms the person deep within. Knowing the content believed in is not sufficient unless the heart, the authentic sacred space within the person, is opened by grace that allows the eyes to see below the surface and to understand that what has been proclaimed is the word of God.” (PF 10)

**All:** *Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith, which has led us to believe in you and in what your holy Church teaches. Enlighten my mind so that I may see beyond content to a deeper personal knowledge of the truth of your loving care for me and for all humanity.*

**Reader:** We “need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the ‘pioneer and perfecter of our faith’: in him, all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfillment.” (PF 13)

**All:** *Lord Jesus, you are the very source of life. Help me to keep you as the center of my life and to remember always that true peace and joy can only be found in you.*

**Reader:** “Faith without charity bears no fruit... Faith enables us to recognize Christ and it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbor along the journey of life.” (PF 14)

**All:** *Lord Jesus, help me to reach out to others with your love and kindness and to serve you and love you in my students and in all those I meet.*

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

In faith, let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us...

**All:** *“Our Father...”*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Gracious and loving God, help us in this Year of Faith to draw ever closer to you and to find in you the fullness of life and love that our hearts desire. Increase in us your divine gifts of faith, hope and charity, that we may be authentic witnesses and faithful servants of your Gospel. By our words and by our example, help us to make disciples of our students, that together may we encounter you, who are Lord forever and ever. Amen.



## FACULTY / STAFF PRAYER TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR (Shorter Version)

*Based on the “Year of Faith”, Proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI*

### CALL TO PRAYER

As we begin this new year of ministry, let us look to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, for direction and inspiration. With his Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict has declared a “Year of Faith” to begin on October 11, 2012. This significant date marks the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

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This Year of Faith is to be a “summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord.” As we are called to lead others to Christ, let us see this Year of Faith as an opportunity to deepen our own faith and our own relationship with the Lord, and to strengthen our commitment to sharing this faith with others. Let us call upon our loving God today and every day, asking him to increase our faith and to give us the grace to know him, to love him, and to serve him more and more.

**OPENING SONG** Choose *one* of these or another suitable hymn:

“Center of My Life” “Jesus, Lord” “Seek Ye First” “We Walk by Faith”

**SCRIPTURE READING** – John 17: 3-6; 17-26

### RESPONSE TO THE READING

Sing the refrain or first verse of the hymn chosen above.

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

In faith, let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us...

*All:* “Our Father...”

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, help us in this Year of Faith to draw ever closer to you and to find in you the fullness of life and love that our hearts desire. Increase in us your divine gifts of faith, hope and charity, that we may be authentic witnesses and faithful servants of your Gospel. By our words and by our example, help us to make disciples of our students, that together may we encounter you, who are Lord forever and ever. Amen.



**FACULTY / STAFF PRAYER for ORIENTATION DAY**  
*Based on the 2012 – 2013 Catechetical Theme*  
**“Catechists and Teachers: Agents of the New Evangelization”**

**Call to Prayer**

In a faithful spirit of mission, we embrace another new year in the ministry of Catholic Education. As St. Paul’s letter to the Romans reminds us, “*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News.*” Each of us is called by the Lord to be the bearer of this Good News, and the Lord generously gives us the gifts and talents we need to do so. May we accept this vocation with willing and generous hearts, knowing that whatever we do, the Lord has promised that He will be with us always.



**Hymn:** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (v. 1,2)

**Psalm 133: Vision of Blessed Community**

**Antiphon:** **There the Lord has lavished blessings, life for evermore.**

**R** How good it is, how pleasant, where the people dwell as one!

**L** Like precious ointment on the head, running down upon the beard,  
Upon the beard of Aaron, upon the collar of his robe.

**R** Like dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion.  
There the Lord has lavished blessings, life for evermore!

**L** Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**R** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Reading: Romans 10: 14-15**

*(Silent pause)*

**Sung Response:** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (vs. 3)

**Litany of Thanksgiving: Response: Lord, we thank you.**

For the opportunities You offer us to manifest **LOVE** through joyful service...

In helping students to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus...*R/*

In going the extra mile for a coworker...*R/*

By showing compassion to parents...*R/*

Through our patience at the end of a busy day ...*R/*

Through our expression of prayerful support for others...*R/*

In the midst of personal or family preoccupations...*R/*

*(over)*

*(Faculty/Staff Prayer for Orientation Day, p.2)*

For the opportunities You offer us to exemplify creative **HOPE** through our trust in Divine Providence...

In the face of school or program deadlines...*R/*

When students need stronger motivation...*R/*

When new projects are initiated...*R/*

When schedules are changed...*R/*

In times of sickness...*R/*

In times of financial struggle...*R/*

For the opportunities You offer us to practice **FIDELITY**, inspiring fervor in our mission of Religious Education...

By our steadfast faithfulness to our own vocation...*R/*

Through our ongoing dedication to Catholic Education...*R/*

Through our daily fidelity to our religious beliefs...*R/*

By our untiring support of those placed in our care...*R/*

By our very presence, showing up faithfully for the sake of the mission...*R/*

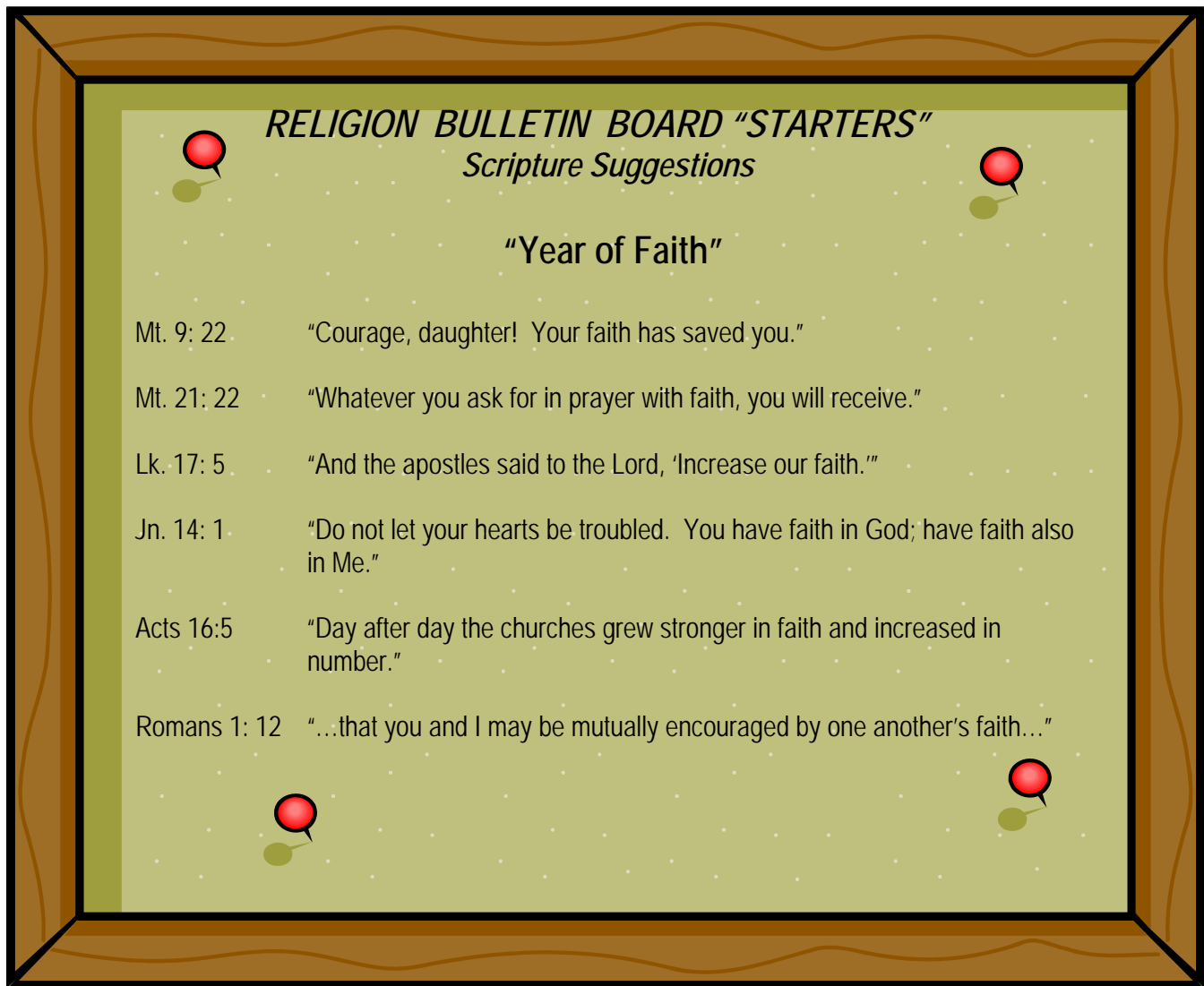
**Our Father**...(Please sing)

**Closing Prayer:** *(in unison)*

Heavenly Father, we are about to begin our day's sharing in Your Name. Bound by charity to one another and to our students, may we be penetrated by an apostolic spirit, and may we give witness to Christ, the unique teacher, by our lives as well as by our teachings. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Closing Hymn:** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (v. 5)





**USCCB Catechetical Theme, 2012 – 2013**  
*“Catechists and Teachers: Agents of the New Evangelization”*



- Mt. 28: 19, 20 “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”
- Mk. 13: 10 “But the Gospel must first be preached to all nations.”
- Lk. 12: 12 “For the Holy Spirit will teach you at than moment what you should say.”
- Romans 10: 15 “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News!”

# CATHOLIC RESOURCES

## For Personal and Ministry Enrichment

### **“Year of Faith” Announced by Our Holy Father**

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has announced an upcoming “Year of Faith”. It will begin on October 11, 2012, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The year will end on November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

For information on this special year of grace...

**“Porta Fidei” (“The Door of Faith”)  
His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI  
Apostolic Letter  
October 11, 2011**



Celebrate the Year of Faith with...

**The Spirituality of Vatican II** (12 Conferences on 5 CDs)  
**Rev. Anthony Ciorra, M. Div., Ph.D.**  
**“Now You Know Media”**  
1-800-955-3904  
[www.NowYouKnowMedia.com/VAT2](http://www.NowYouKnowMedia.com/VAT2)

## General Resources for the Students

### New DVD

**The Adventures of St. Paul**  
(for children in pre-school and primary grades)  
**Pauline Books and Media**  
1-800-876-4463  
[www.pauline.org](http://www.pauline.org)

### New Books

Wegendt, Christina M., FSP, Ed. **The Saints Pray for Us.** Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2012. (for ages 7 – 12)

Wallace, Susan Helen, FSP. **Saint Gianna Beretta Molla: The Gift of Life.** Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2012. (for ages 9 – 12)

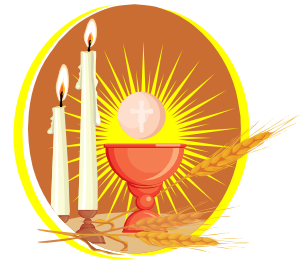
Trouve, Marianne Lorraine, FSP. **Saint Catherine Laboure and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.** Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2012.

## ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TREASURES***

Praying with Children...

Liturgy of the Word with Benediction

A Celebration of Thanksgiving



Most often when we gather the school community to prayer, we celebrate the Mass. **Thanksgiving** is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with Benediction. We can focus on the true understanding of the word "Eucharist" which means "thanksgiving;" we can learn to pray the psalms in the alternating style of all the priests and people who pray the Liturgy of the Hours; and we can receive the blessing of Jesus in Benediction.

Preparation for and participation in this liturgy provide the celebrant and teacher an opportunity to give children a glimpse into the prayer style of the Liturgy of the Hours, as well as an experience of the celebration of the Eucharist outside of Mass in Benediction. If food has been collected to share with the poor at this holiday, the food can be gathered near the altar. At the time of reflection, a representative from each class could bring a box or a can forward to add to the gifts. Another possibility is to prepare ahead of time small copies of a cornucopia on which each student could list their blessings, including those persons for whom they are grateful. A representative could bring these papers up to be placed in a basket.

### ***Possible outline for this celebration:***

**Call to Worship:** The Lord calls us together today to reflect on our many blessings. In 1621, the Pilgrims realized that only with the help of God did they survive their first year in the New World, and they gathered to worship and praise God in thanksgiving. In that spirit of praise, let us sing together:

**Gathering Hymn:** "Glory and Praise to Our God," "Now Thank We All Our God," "The God of All Grace," or any suitable gathering hymn.

**Reader 1:** The word Eucharist means Thanksgiving. The Eucharist is our greatest gift. Jesus gives us the gift of Himself. As we adore Jesus present on our altar today, let us praise and thank Him. Please kneel.

**Exposition Hymn:** "O Saving Victim," "O Bread of Life," or any suitable Eucharistic hymn.

**Reader 2:** **First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 2: 42-47

**Psalm:** Many psalms are appropriate. This is one possibility.

Reader 3: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God.

**All:** Now and forever.

Reader 3: God our Savior, You answer us with awesome deeds.

**All:** You bring hope to every corner of the world.

Right: You visit the land and water it. You greatly enrich it.  
Your river is full of water. You give us grain.

Left: You have prepared the land, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

*(over)*

*(Religious Education Treasures, p.2)*

Right: You crown the year with your bounty. You leave richness wherever you go.

Left: The meadows are dressed in their flocks of sheep and the valleys are blanketed with grain.

Right: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Left: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Reader 3: God our Savior, You answer us with awesome deeds.

**All:** You bring hope to every corner of the world.

**Gospel:** Possible choice -- The Healing of the Ten Lepers

Luke 17: 11-19

### Homily / Reflection

Reader 4: We now invite one member of each class to come forward to the altar, carrying one item that your class collected to share with the poor. We pray for the Church, our nation, our parish, our school, the poor, the sick, and those who have died.



**Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament** Please kneel.

**Benediction Hymn:** "Down in Adoration Falling,"  
"Gift of Finest Wheat," or any suitable Eucharistic hymn.

**Blessing**

**The Divine Praises**

Reader 5: We thank Jesus for the gift of Himself, the Eucharist. As we go forth to celebrate Thanksgiving with our parish and our families, let us share His love with all.  
Please stand and sing our Closing Hymn.

**Closing Hymn:** "Now Thank We All Our God," "America the Beautiful," or any suitable hymn.



## TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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**"The Year of Faith"**

**October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013**

These websites contain a wealth of information  
for the celebration of the Year of Faith.

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

[www.catholic-year-of-faith.com](http://www.catholic-year-of-faith.com)

[www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com)

### **SAINTS**

<http://faith.thatresourcesite.com/modules/PDdownloads/viewcat.php?cid=48>

This site contains downloads and printables for Catholic saint trading cards.

<http://cathkids.ainglkiss.com/>

Bible stories, puzzles, saints, prayer and pages for parents too.

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Saint of the day, saints and angels of the month, saint fun facts

### **PRAYER**

[http://www.catholicmom.com/catholic\\_kids.htm](http://www.catholicmom.com/catholic_kids.htm)

Prayer and Treasures of our Faith, coloring and activity pages