

SACRAMENTS: SESION ONE

Session One: Our youth will

- Appreciate the Legacy God left us in Jesus.
- See that God wills the salvation of all people
- Know God speaks to everyone in the depths of their experience, and
- Know God calls us to be a community the life of which also shows the world God loves all people..

Parents:

1. The Faith we profess is a total worldview. We see everything through its perspective. It is a legacy we are called upon to live and to share with our children and others.
2. We see life as Gift of the Creator God, who became one of us in Jesus the Christ(Messiah) Jesus modeled for us how to live for others, and shared with us that we are to live forever
3. We see God willing the salvation of all persons, speaking to them thru their human experience.
4. As Catholics, we see every authentic response to life as an authentic response to its God.
5. We see ourselves as called to a special community, the Church, to live so that others, seeing our total commitment to God in Christ, that we become an additional sign that God loves all persons.
6. In this course, we invite parents, to reflect deeply on these powerful truths for it is parents who, with God's help, most effectively share the legacy given us.

Summary

In this overall plan of God to speak to all people at the level where they are, and invite them to love God who accepts us where we are but also knows what we can be. We are called by Jesus to be Sacrament – Visible sign of God's Presence and action in the world.

As we learned in the Scripture Course, God is the creator of all things. God made the universe and all that is in it. But God made human beings in a special way: We were made to be "god-like," made in the image and likeness of God.

God likeness can be understood statically or dynamically. Both are important:

1. **STATICALLY:** We are god-like in that we possess intelligence and free will. We have the power of choice
2. **DYNAMICALLY:** We are god-like because we are called by God to use intelligence and free will to become Like God – Creators.

A creator is one who brings order and harmony out of chaos or raw material.

God has given each of us:

The raw material of SELF	and called us to create PERSON
The raw material of Relationship	and called us to create love
The raw material of my personal life	and called me to create beauty, order, harmony, truth

3. Using the creative power given us, we are called to put meaning into our lives. Meaning is not something outside us. Meaning is a composite of three elements:
ALTERNATIVES Which indeed are outside us
DECISION Which is within us, and
COMMITMENT Which also is within us
4. When we use our God given powers to bring order, harmony and beauty, direction, and understanding to our lives, we accept the legacy given us to see life as:
*GIFT OF THE CREATOR GOD, BECOME ONE OF US IN JESUS, MODELING HOW TO LIVE FOR OTHERS,
AND TELL US IT IS TO LAST FOREVER.*

Then we become part of a community whose totally different lifestyle says to all the world – Take the God who's talking to you seriously. Look at these Christians – God is everything to them.

AND THAT IS WHAT CHURCH IS AND IS ABOUT

SACRAMENTS - SESSION TWO

Session Two: The better to appreciate the relationship between God and ourselves, our youth will have an appreciation of who God is and to what degree we depend upon God as humans.

TIME As human beings, we are creatures of time. Time may be defined as:

The Measure of Created Motion According to a "before" and an "after

- The earth revolves on its axis once. This duration we call a day. 7 of these are a week (Based on the seven days of creation). 52 weeks are a year. 10 years a decade 100 a century, a thousand – a millennium.
- Time is the measure of created motion according to a before or after. There is no instant replay in time.
- However, God created that which moves to make time.
- Therefore while eternity for human beings eternity is endless successive Time, Eternity for God is total and simultaneous possession of unending life.

Implications of this are profound:

- Everything that we experience moment by moment by moment, God has present to Himself in one ETERNAL NOW. God knows the whole of my life – start to finish
- God – knowing me and my life in its totality from all eternity, looked at the whole of it, liked what He saw, and decided to call me into being. Each of us can say, then, and know it is true, that God knowing my strengths and weaknesses, my life from beginning to end - God gave me the gift of life.
- I know for certain then: I AM LOVED WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE.
- Again, creation is not a date on an ancient calendar – an event of the past.
- Creation is an on-going process.
- Just as the glass I am holding will remain aloft as long as I hold it in my hand – were I to let go for a fraction of a second – it would tumble to the ground; so too my being will stay in existence only for so long as God sustains me in being. Were God to "let go" for an instant, I would fall back into nothingness.

The Scriptures say this very profoundly:

"In God, we live, and move, and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

"A thousand years in your sight are as yesterday which is "past." (Psalm 90, vs. 4)

GOD & TIME In becoming one of us – for all of us – the Eternal God had to Somehow work His presence into a human life time's length and then come up with a way to be present thereafter.

- THE HUMAN LIFE TIME PROBLEM, the eternal God by "squeezing" into time at a particular point, in a particular place, to a particular nation, family, time and way.
- Jesus was born of Mary in 4 BC and came into our world for a period of some thirty years, preached the last three, was crucified, died, buried and rose again.
- THE WAY TO BE PRESENT THEREAFTER, Jesus solved by creating a community to continue His Presence till the end of time as SACRAMENT – that is "Sign of God's Presence and Action in our world."

Using the creative power given us, as members of the Community Jesus founded we are called to put meaning into our lives individually and as a group walking to the beat of a different drummer, we are formed by the legacy that sees life as Gift of the God become one of us, who modeled how it is to be lived for others, told us it is to last forever.

So doing, we will say to all the world – the God who speaks to you in the depths of your hearts of His care and love for you should indeed be taken seriously in ways that seem most apt for you.

And so doing, the Presence of God continues sacramentally in the world and commands respect for the God who made us all.

SACRAMENTS: SESSION THREE

Session Three Our youth will have an appreciation of the Salvation history of the human race from the vision God shared with us.

Review

1. God revealed to Moses the pertinent facts about creation God wished us to know.
2. Moses recorded this in story form so they could be remembered and shared.
3. From the stories, we get the following vision of humanity.

The History:

- God created everything in the world and saw that it was good.
- God created human beings in a special way – Made them God – like.
- Their “God-likeness” consists of the gifts of intelligence and free will and their use to guide and share the good things of the earth with all people.
- God gave the human race responsibility and we humans failed to live up to it. Sin came into the world
- The Biblical notion of sin is: Lack of a love and order that should be present.
As a result of sin there came into the world:

Lack of order and love within the human person that should be there

Lack of order and love within the man woman relationship that should be there

Lack of order and love within family living that should be there

Lack of order, and love among nations that should be there.

- At the same time God confronted humanity with sin and it’s effects, God also promised that there would come one who would restore order and love to humanity
- Though God continually made Himself known to each, as time went on, people began drifting more and more away from God.
- God spoke then through certain individuals to keep alive the faith in the Promise. The history of the promise lived on in the patriarch’s, prophets and ancestors of the people of Israel who preserved this hope for all humanity
- In time, the Promised One came in the person of Christ whom we believe to be God become one of us.
- Many of the Jewish people saw Jesus as the Promised One. Many did not and continued to await His coming.
- In Himself, Jesus is the “Sacrament of God” – visible sign of the presence and action of God in our world. Jesus, by becoming one of us, suffering, dying and rising, redeemed us and reunited us with our God.
- After the Resurrection, Jesus wished to continue to be present and active in the world. He called together a Church, gave it the charge to continue His presence and action in the world. (A Community Sacrament of Jesus.)
- As Catholics, we see ourselves as the Leaven, Light, and Salt Community, called by Jesus to be a group set apart and by the difference of our lives, catalyze greater awareness of God’s continuing presence in the world.
..
- This Church, by its life and ministry, strives to continue God’s presence and action today and in this way “preach” the gospel to all humanity.
- Receiving the sacrament (presence and action of Christ at the key moments of their lives in the individual sacraments, members of the Church become “sacrament” - presence and action of God to and for the world,
- And in this way each member of the Christian community can say and mean of a certainty.

FOR THIS HAVE I COME INTO THE WORLD

SACRAMENTS: SESSION FOUR

Session Four: Our youth will appreciate people as the greatest expression of God in space and time. They will see response to God as striving to show all people how God would have us live life.

Parents: This is a call to examine your own personal salvation history. Who were your priests, prophets, and kings? Share with your children the people God sent into your life who by their presence taught you it is God who gives meaning to life. Look for stories of your Mom and Dad, siblings, priests, nuns, relatives, friends, who powerfully and almost silently taught you what life was about. And then tell them about the times they – each of your children – by coming into your lives – taught you about God.

EXAMPLES

Story One: I remember my father coming into my room before I left for the seminary. We were living in the projects. He told me to kneel down. I asked why. He replied: "You are my oldest son. You are going to leave our home for the first time. Kneel so I can give you my blessing.

Story Two: I told my Pastor I was going to enter the seminary one evening after asking if I could see him. He lost it for a moment, then turned and said to me: "If you have a vocation, God bless you. If you feel you don't, come back home, it's OK. We will love you.

Story Three: I was in the hospital. I was feeling awkward. I didn't feel my best. Look My best, And in the ward where I was all the guys were in a funk. A nurse walked into the room with a smile on her face and said: "Hi, it's so good to see you all looking so fine on this beautiful day. All was better and stayed better.

These stories involve three people who taught one person by simple actions that were never forgotten. You have many stories if you will just start thinking of your experiences as stories.

Why is the notion of "God becoming one of us" in people important?

- It is because as sacrament is "Visible sign of God's presence and action in the world."
- Jesus was the first and most perfect sacrament – God Himself present in our world.
- Jesus founded a Church to continue His presence on earth as a Sacrament,
- And Church is people – each one of us..
- We each are called to use the power to think and the power to love and take charge of our own lives, showing love for God by the way we treat one another.

And in the Beatitudes Jesus tells us how to become God's presence – a sacrament for others.

Blessed are:

Poor in Spirit Those who mourn	To need little to be happy. To take joy in sharing with others. To think of others more than ourselves. Who know Jesus Himself had a tough life living for others. Who take tough things graciously knowing Jesus has called us to a life of joy forever.
Gentle Hunger to do Right	When people are angry, look beyond words, beyond emotion, and hear the pain. Be gentle – they hurt Sometimes it's hard to do right. Sometimes it's hard to want to do right. Ask God to help you with this.
Merciful	A merciful person is one who knows he or she makes mistakes and is always ready to forgive. They always presume that the other person didn't mean the hurtful things.
Clean of heart	The clean of heart are those who know God has given us a great world that sometimes is tough. But he's also made us to live forever. We take the good with gratitude – the difficult knowing this life begins eternal life.
Peace-makers	Jesus was a great peace maker – between God and ourselves, between others. Any time we overlook hurts and treat people gently – Jesus is right there saying "Great Work."
Persecuted for doing what is right	Some people have to put up with a lot of things they should not have to deal with. It's hard for them. When God sees people in this kind of situation, He is close to them and helps them.
Parents	These are some ideas which might help you personalize your faith sharing with your young people. The stories of Jesus are great also: Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son, Woman at the well, the Parables.

SACRAMENTS - SESSION FIVE

Session Five: Our youth will appreciate Jesus as God become one of us and begin the task of knowing Jesus as a person who loves us and shows us how to be Christ for others.

Looking into the Scriptures, we learn the following about Jesus:

His Birth

- Jesus - Is the God who made all things. God loves us so much he became one of us.
- Jesus - was not born at home or a hospital. He was born in a stable among strangers and animals. We learn that you don't need a lot of "things" in life to be happy.
- Jesus - lived a very ordinary life - in a family. With Mary, His mother and Joseph, His foster father. We learn simple is good.
- Jesus - experienced everything - good and bad - that happens to us in life. He knows life is hard. We can talk to Him. He knows.

His Public Life, Death, and Resurrection

- Jesus - came to tell people that God loves everyone. God gave us a beautiful world and modeled how we are to live.
- Jesus - told us that we are going to live forever. This is the very important. It makes life worthwhile.
- Jesus - respected every person, and saw God in each one. To be like Jesus is to see the good in each person - see God in each.
- Jesus - knew people hurt a lot on the inside. He experienced it too. Do I try to move beyond people's words and emotion, see the pain and ask if I can help?
- Jesus - knew Himself how hard rejection is, If you feel rejection, talk to Him. If you meet others who feel it, do Jesus a favor and say "I know how much it hurts. How can I help?"
- Jesus - did not just associate with people who had power, wealth, influence. He talked with fishermen, with the lowly of the earth. Do I spend time with those who are needy as well as those who can help me? How do I help them?
- Jesus - could sense people who were hurting. He stopped a funeral procession and raised to life the son of a poor widow? Am I working on being sensitive to the needs and wants and hurts of others? To be like Jesus, I will have to do this.
- Jesus - was often disappointed. He spent three years with 12 close friends, living with them, teaching them, and forming them. One would turn him over to those who wanted to kill Him. Fear drove the other 11 off when He needed them most. Am I working on getting over disappointments and seeking to be forgiving when others hurt me.
- Jesus - often challenged people to love God and make Him most important. How much importance do I give Christ in my life? How much input do I give Him fashioning the way I live? How much time do I let Jesus influence the values that guide my life? How much do I talk with Christ about my hopes and my dreams? How much time do I spend learning about the kind of person He is by reading the Gospels?
- Jesus - was very realistic. He told His disciples that He had to suffer, die, and rise to bring us healing and hope. Am I realistic in recognizing that the tough times of life are only steps on my Pilgrim journey?
- Jesus - told us very plainly that to love God means not only to approve of Jesus but to live in such a way others can see what it means to become Jesus for others.
- Jesus - was the great peace-maker. Jesus forgave people whether they deserved it or not. He overlooked a lot and moved beyond hurt. Unless we forgive as Jesus did, there never will be peace.
- Jesus - on coming into the world, found poverty, disease, oppression and slavery. On leaving the world, these remained. Jesus' formula for world peace was "Love one another as I have loved you." We are to model this for the world and thereby continue Christ's healing presence.
- Jesus - tells us: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.? Where is my "Treasure?" If someone looked at my life, what would he or she see as most important? Wealth? Power? Influence? Leisure? Pleasure?
- Jesus - tells us not to love only friends. To follow Jesus, love those who are different, the poor, the sick, the handicapped, those without influence or power, the homeless. Do I try to be like Christ and love those whom it is difficult to love?
- Jesus - tells us that we are His Light to the world. To the darkness, light brings the ability to see, understand, appreciate order, beauty. By the way I live my life, others must see what life is all about - gift of God, to be lived for others. My goal: birth into a life of joy forever with our God.

Parents: One way to make Jesus come alive is in the Scriptures. A suggestion - Read a chapter of the gospels a day, beginning with Mark. Do this and tell your children what new you learned about Jesus each day. Look for what kind of a person Jesus is in His stories, words, attitudes and actions. Put these into a story. And tell the story your children.

SACRAMENTS - SESSION SIX

Session 6. Our youth will appreciate "sacrament" as sign of God's presence and action in our world – Jesus as Primary Sacrament, Church as continuation of Christ's Sacramental presence in the world, and each of us as part of Church.

Parents: The Sacraments are key to sharing our vision of Jesus, living His Mission continuing His presence till the end of time.
A Sacrament is a visible sign of the presence and action of God in our world.

Jesus – God - become one of us – is the most profound presence and action of God

Church - is God's way of continuing "becoming one of us" through the Yeast, Light, Salt Community

We – Church is people. Through seven special sacramental signs we experience, at key moments of our life various aspects of the presence of Christ and are thereby empowered to be His presence.

1. In Baptism, we experience the Life Giving Presence of Christ. We experience new life, making us children of God, forgiveness of sin, and are commissioned to be Christ for the world as part of the Community (Church bears His name).
2. In Confirmation, we experience the strengthening presence of Christ and are empowered to live our commitment to the new life that is ours when times make this charge difficult and challenging
3. In Holy Eucharist, we receive the presence of Christ and are empowered by the presence of Christ. We also consider Eucharist in terms of His Sacrifice and Presence.
4. In Reconciliation, we experience the forgiving Jesus and are empowered to forgive as Jesus did in our world.
5. In Anointing of the Sick, we experience the healing presence of Jesus and are empowered to heal others in Christ's name.
6. In Holy Orders, we experience the unconditional love of God for us through total gift of self to God and giving expression to this unconditional love through the Community (Church) by service.
7. In Matrimony, we experience the unconditional love of God for us through another person and are empowered to model God's love for all people in our marriage and relationships.

Receiving Christ sacramentally through the sacrament that is the Community, and in community experiencing Jesus in the seven special moments of our lives, we individually and as part of the community are empowered to BE CHRIST by the lives we lead.

With this background as a frame of reference, share with your children some of the people who at different points in your life made a real difference in the way you saw things, the things that were really important.

- One of the things Dad did that caused you to stop and take note
- One of the things Mom did that you'll never forget
- One of the things a teacher did for you that changed your way of looking at things.
- Something a brother or sister did for you that you can never thank them enough.
- Something a priest said one time that changed the way you looked at things.
- An experience you had that you know had the hand of God in it
- An experience that caught you up short and enriched you profoundly
- A time when you experienced God talking to you through another person

Parents: The more you can share your own personal faith life, what you felt about God at the ages of your children, the more they can sense how important God and the things of God are to you. You teach not with blackboards and lesson plans \ but with stories, and experiences, and especially modeling the world view Christ shared with us in your home.

SACRAMENT	Who- What	Sign – Symbol	Community	Summons – Live the Vision
BAPTISM	Sign – Pouring of water with words "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit" Imprints a character Effects – Ministers	Water – Sea is Mother of All the Living. Source of Life. We step into the waters symbolizing death and rise to new life. What Is Signified Happens	Sacrament placing us into the Leaven Community – Charged by its presence to make a difference.	Seek the things that are above – Live the vision.. Dare to be different.
CONFIRMATION	Sign – Laying on of hands with the anointing with oil. Character. Effects a strengthening to ministry. Minister is usually the Bishop – sometimes priest Imprints a character	Strengthening – Rite of Passage – Christian comes of age and responsibility but growth is lifelong. What is signified happens	One is strengthened to assist the Church in being the visible sign of Christ's presence. .	Become all things to all people. Grow in being a sign of God's love and presence in the world. Renew your commitment to the process each day. by your love – your presence.
EUCCHARIST	This is my Body – This is my blood. Do this in memory of me. At Mass, the sacrifice of Jesus is represented to God so we can become part of it. We eat the Body of Christ to become the body of Christ. Sacrifice – Sacrament – Presence	Separate Consecration: Sign of Sacrifice. Food to be consumed – Nourishment for the Pilgrim What is signified happens	Community is most fully expressed in the celebration that defines its identity A celebration of who we are as a community	Having experienced the presence of Christ – become Christ for others.
PENANCE	Sign: Contrition, Confession, Satisfaction – the acts of the penitent are the form and the matter of the sacrament	These actions before the official representative of Christ signify and bring about reconciliation to God. What is signified takes place.	Reconciliation to the Community is a sign of reconciliation with God. Reconciliation to God takes place.	Having been reconciled to your God, make it your ministry to be one who brings people together. Become yourself a reconciler of others.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK	Sign – Laying on of hands and anointing with oil with the word "Through this holy anointing and his loving kindness may God grant you healing of mind and body.	Special strengthening for a time of special need – healing. What is signified happens	The healing presence of Christ is made present to the sick person.	Having been healed, be a healing presence to others..
HOLY ORDERS	Laying on of the hands coupled with the words of ordination, a man is set aside for a special task in the church. Imprints a character.	The deacon, priest, bishop is set aside and commissioned for a special task in the community. What is signified happens.	Imitate what you handle – become what you touch for the community of God's people. Build the community – call others to ministry.	Be a sign to the sign community of what it means to be leaven, light, and salt.
MATRIMONY	The mutual giving and exchanging of vows is the matter and the form the words signifying it. Couple are the ministers.	Your self gift to one another is sign of God's love for God's people. What is signified happens	The community has need of the example of your love to be a sign to all humankind	Live the Love Story of God and people.

SACRAMENTS – SESSION SEVEN

Our Youth will appreciate the seven sacraments as special signs at key8 moments of their lives empowering them to experience Christ to become Christ

SACRAMENTS - SESSION EIGHT

Our Youth will appreciate the Church Jesus founded, a part of which Jesus commissioned them to be as yeast or leaven in the dough

Parents: To be a follower of Jesus as member of the Church, your children are to become aware of how Jesus spoke of Church. Today, we learn the meaning of Church from the image of Yeast. Yeast is so different from the dough in which it is placed, that a chemical reaction sets in and growth takes place. Christians, Catholics, are called to be different. This lesson outlines the differences.

Church: One of the Most Powerful images Jesus used to describe Church is "Leaven or yeast in the dough."
In making bread,

- flour is mixed with water to make the dough
- Into the dough is placed a teaspoon of yeast which is dissolved in water.
- The whole mass of dough is then placed in a kettle which it half fills
- A lid is placed on the kettle
- A half hour later, the lid is itself resting on a mass of dough which rises half again as high as the kettle

Jesus tells us: Leaven :: Church
 Dough World

YEAST By comparison with the dough is:

1. Small - the volume of the dough is much, much greater
2. To be mixed thoroughly in the dough, become immersed in it.
3. Radically different from the dough
4. Its presence in the dough causes the dough to grow in volume.
5. The change does not produce more dough but makes the entire dough grow

From the image of leaven, we can make the following conclusions about the church remembering that Church is people
And we are the people.

CHURCH WILL ALWAYS BE RELATED TO THE WORLD AS YEAST IS TO DOUGH

1. The Church will always be small, a minority yet it will influence all the world.
 2. The people who form Church will be radically different from the world in
 - The way they see life.
 - The things they see as important
 - Their presence – the manner in which they live, see life, make choices, behave.
 - Most will think, act, judge, and cherish things that are very different.
 4. The presence of the Christian, the Church, living out this difference very consistently, and very differently, is to effect a change in the values of the world
 5. However, when one is different and significantly so, one will never be part of the in-group
5. The object of Christianity is to create a greater awareness of God's care for all people and this is done not by talking but by living a totally different life.

ST. PAUL ONCE SAID: THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD AND THE WISDOM OF GOD ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

Parents: One of the best ways of this image of Church across to children is to speak to them while of it while watching Mom make bread. And it is not only the whole church but each member of it that is to be yeast to our world.

SACRAMENTS: SESSION NINE

Session 9. Our youth will appreciate the Church Jesus formed in terms of the image of light and understand how this impacts the living of their lives as members of Church.

Parents: In the eternal plan of God to bring all to Himself, God sent Jesus to be visible sign of God's presence and action in the world. Christ's presence spoke. When Jesus left to return to the Father, the plan called for a Community (Church) to continue that presence to all people. Church and the people who form it in every age are a sign of God's presence and love. Last week we looked at one image that Jesus used to describe us – the image of yeast or leaven. Today, Christ invites us to reflect on perhaps the most profound of the images to outline our job description as People of God – the Image of Light. Make this image part of your reflection. It describes church most relevantly.

Jesus tells us: **LIGHT :: CHURCH**
DARK WORLD

TO DARKNESS LIGHT BRINGS THE POSSIBILITY OF:

- 1. Vision.** In darkness, one cannot see obstacles, runs the risk of falling, cannot discern where one is.
- 2. Understanding** In darkness, I am unable to perceive any others present, I cannot see where I am or how I relate to the world around me or even see that there is a world around me
- 3. Direction** In darkness, I am not conscious of in which direction to go, how to proceed rationally. And see options for traveling.
- 4. Beauty** The inability to perceive beauty is another dimension of darkness as is the ability to detect friends, recognize the good and the bad.
- 5. Meaning** In darkness, one shuts down, is baffled, confused, uncertain, panicked.

TO THE WORLD, CHURCH (PEOPLE) MUST, BY THE WAY WE LIVE, SHOW TO OTHERS WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
Looking at the Church (At people like ourselves), the world must

- 1. See life as it really is: Gift of God, to be lived for others, and lasting forever.**
- 2. Understand the world as training ground for living with God forever**
- 3. Showing by how we live what is of lasting value and the need to live for others.**
- 4. Seeing life's joys with gratitude – life's pits with a realization it's not all here.**
- 5. Knowing what is of lasting value and seeking it consistently and genuinely.**

This image is an important one. It gives us our Job Description as members of the Faith Community:

SO LIVE THAT OTHERS KNOW WHAT IS OF LASTING VALUE AND PURSUE IT.

The Challenge: Wisdom of the World and Wisdom of God are on opposite sides. To be church:

- One cannot be part of the "in-group.
- One cannot accept, the values of the world but must critique them in the light of that for which Jesus stood.
- One must walk a lonely path – walk to the beat of a different drummer.
- One must know that things make sense on six different levels, all of which make sense.
- These are: Emotion, Wisdom of the world, Media, Civil Law, Peers, and What Jesus said and thought.
- Church must move beyond what makes sense on the above levels and opt for the last level.
- And this is known as tough love.
- God speaks to everyone in their hearts. We respect this as Catholics
- God also counts on us to live WWJD – WWJT.
- Must we not be loyal to the God who counts on us to be Christ for Him in each stage of the world's history.

SACRAMENTS - SESSION TEN

Session 10. Our youth will appreciate the Community Jesus formed in terms of the image of salt.

Parents: The image of salt is a very meaningful one. We are told that salt does not add a flavor to that which is seasoned – it rather “brings out the flavor” proper to the food itself. It is a particularly useful image in that it describes the role of the Church in terms that are profound. God speaks to each of us in the depths of our human experience. In the plan of God, there would be another communication to individual people from God – one through other people. It is your depth of appreciation of the faith written in the life you lead that solidifies the love of God in the experience of others. We – Church and School can teach the “What” of the faith – its content. Only you can teach its importance. This you will show rather than tell.

The Following concepts are important to appreciate this image:

SALT :: CHURCH
FOOD WORLD

- Salt brings a definite dimension of flavor to the food. it seasons.
- In many seasonings, a flavor is added. In salt, the flavor is drawn forth from that which is seasoned itself.

God then is telling us several things about church that we need to note carefully.

1. The presence of Church in the world affects people in a very definite and different way.
 2. Every individual experiences God in the course of a given life-time. This is written into the depths of our being. Additional reminders to us of God, and our relationship and dependence on God are people
 3. Each of us have certain people who by their presence in our lives have made God important to us
 4. These persons modeled “Walking with God” for us.
 5. And each of us, as individuals and as parts of the church community are called to be “salt” to others – BRINGING OUT the presence and love of Christ from those we meet.
- Thereby, the Church herself, and each each of us “draw” forth from those we meet the certainty of the presence and love of God in the lives of others.

Parents: At this time, Share with your children:

- Persons in your life whose presence made you the religious person you are.
- Experiences which touched you profoundly as a young person, as an adult
- Times when your children themselves brought you the realization of God’s love. (Their birth itself)

Secondly, share with your children occasions when you were surprised that others said you yourself were Christ for them.

For the last three sessions, we have been examining the powerful images of Yeast, Light, and Salt, to describe the role of the church in the world. Two other images are important to consider.

One of these is the image of the vine and the branches that Jesus used. This speaks eloquently of our need for being connected with God.

1. A branch cut off from the vine simply dies. Its source of life and growth has simply been severed.
2. My life with God requires me to be connected on an ongoing basis with God.
3. Prayer – talking to God – spending time with God is essential.

One last image that is important is the Church as Body of Christ.

1. There are many kinds of unity: Being present to another. Friendship with another. Being related to another. Family
2. But the unity of the parts of the body to one another is most profound.
3. When an arm functions properly – the whole body benefits. Parts are interdependent.
4. The same vital principle energizes the whole and each part of the body.
5. As I am faithful to my God, I enable every person in the church community to be faithful and the community itself to be faithful.