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Saint Teresa of Avila was a Spanish mystic, writer, and reformer of the Carmelite Order. She believed in the power of prayer and the spirit. Her life was devoted to prayer and teaching people to pray.

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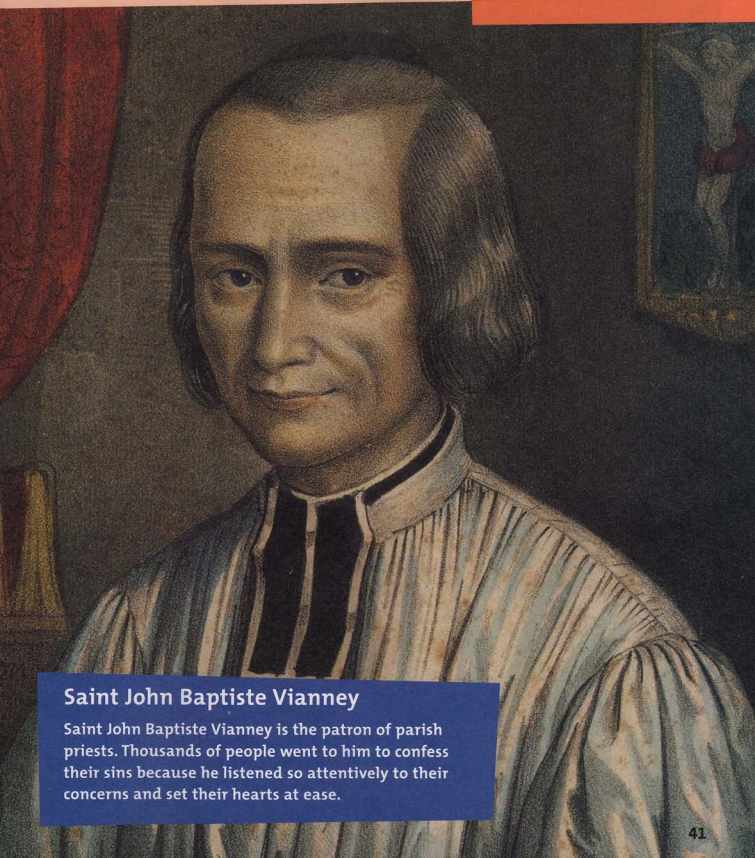
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Son of God, Son of Mary

Unit 2



Saint John Baptiste Vianney

Saint John Baptiste Vianney is the patron of parish priests. Thousands of people went to him to confess their sins because he listened so attentively to their concerns and set their hearts at ease.



Saint John Baptiste Vianney

John Vianney was born in France in 1786. He spent much of his boyhood helping to care for his father's sheep and cattle. Although he received little schooling, he began studying for the priesthood

when he was 20 years old. John struggled as a student. He had an especially hard time with Latin, which every priest needed to know. Yet John was very devout and impressed others with his goodness. One such person, Father Balley, befriended John and helped him become a priest.

In 1818 John became the pastor of a church in Ars, a village in France. Most parishioners did not attend church, so John set out to visit each one. He was very kind to people who were poor and those who were sick. He also helped to establish an orphanage, a home for children whose parents had died. Soon his parishioners began coming to Mass.

John's goodness became so well known that thousands of people came to Ars to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. Although he must have been exhausted at times, John turned no one away. John died in 1859 and was canonized in 1925. August 4 is his feast day.

The shrine in Ars, France, where John Vianney served as pastor

Jesus' Law of Love

Session 6



Picking cards from a "Good Deed tree"

Jesus teaches us to love one another as he loves us. How are the children in this picture following Jesus' teaching? What things can you do to show love to others at home, at school, and in your parish?

Help my
grandfather
clean out
the garage



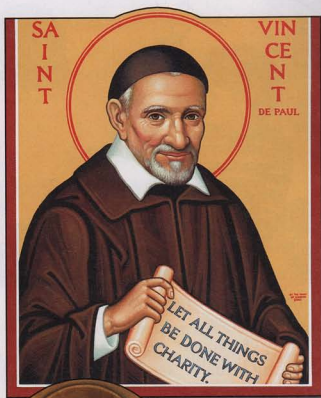
PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help me notice when people need help. Then give me the grace to do what I can.

Saint Vincent de Paul

Vincent de Paul was born on a small farm in France in 1580. As a young man, he attended the University of Toulouse in France, where he studied to become a priest. In 1600 he was ordained a priest.

At first Vincent lived and worked among wealthy people. After hearing the confession of a peasant, however, Vincent became concerned about people who were poor and those who were ill.



Religious icon and medallion of Saint Vincent de Paul

Vincent organized groups of men and women to care for poor people. One group was the Daughters of Charity, which Saint Louise de Marillac helped to establish. Vincent also founded the Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentians, to preach to people living in rural areas and to teach them. Saint

Vincent's missionaries even ransomed, or paid for the release of, Christian slaves. Known today as the Apostle of Charity, Saint Vincent is the patron saint of charitable societies. Saint Vincent de Paul died in 1660. His feast day is September 27.

Jesus' Law of Love

God revealed the Law, also called the **Torah**, in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible. Jesus loved the Law and gave us a new commandment to help us understand the Torah's deepest meaning.

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.

John 13:34

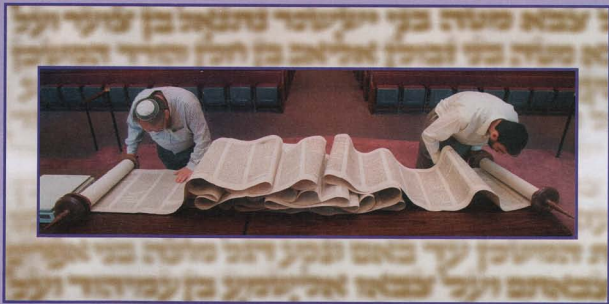
The main idea of Jesus' commandment is that the Law calls us to love God and to love others. This love is expressed in the ways that people are willing to serve one another.

Torah scroll bound by wooden rollers



Did You Know?

The Torah is also the name of the first five books of the Bible: *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.*



Torah scrolls are handwritten on parchment and require special training to repair and restore.

Imitating Jesus

Jesus, God's son who became man, revealed to us how God loves us and calls us to love one another. Being like Jesus means learning to act as he acted. We show our love for God by loving one another as Jesus loves us. Jesus showed his love for others by loving even his enemies and praying for them.

The disciples followed Jesus' example. Loving their enemies was not easy. In the early years of the Church, political rulers sometimes outlawed Christianity. As a result early Christians faced punishment or even death. In the face of their difficulties, the disciples practiced the virtue of **fortitude**. Fortitude is the virtue that gives us courage to follow Jesus even when it is difficult.



Reading God's Word

So faith, hope, love remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

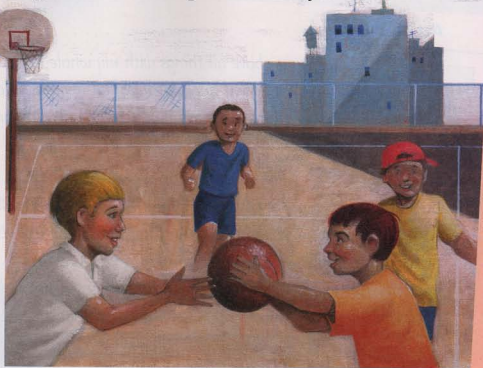
Help From the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus' commandment of love. When we are tempted, we can pray to the Holy Spirit to strengthen us. The Holy Spirit helps us practice the virtue of fortitude and remain strong in the face of temptation. When you need help to do what is right, remember to pray to the Holy Spirit.

Reaching Out

Saint Vincent de Paul showed his love for others by helping people who were poor and suffering. Think of a way you can show love for others by reaching

out to those who are in need even when it is difficult. You might compliment someone or sit with someone new at lunch. Write your idea on the lines.



Link to Liturgy

One way we follow Jesus' commandment of love is to pray for other people. In the general intercessions at Mass, we pray for others around the world and in our parish.



PRAYER

We pray the Act of Love to tell God that we love him and want to love others the way Jesus taught us.

Act of Love

*O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured.
Amen.*

After you pray the Act of Love, spend some time with God. Tell God the name of someone you forgive for hurting you or someone you may have hurt to whom you have not yet said that you are sorry. Ask God for whatever help you need. Trust that you will receive it.

Living My Faith

Faith Summary

Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loved us. We can show our love for one another by the many ways we serve one another, including helping those in need.

Words I Learned

fortitude Torah

Ways of Being Like Jesus

You are like Jesus when you are loving and kind to your parents, brothers, and sisters.

With My Family

Make a list of several good deeds you and your family have done. For example, you may have refused to spread a rumor in school, or your mother may have helped a neighbor clean her yard. Share with one other what you did.



PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for giving us your law of love and for showing us how to love others.

My Response

What will you do this week to show your love for God and others? Write a sentence or draw a picture.



RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

Serving in Love

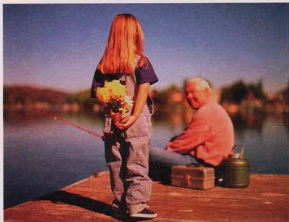
You hear your child calling you late at night. The fever that your child had been fighting has returned. You get up to do what you can. The needs of your child are your focus. At such times we as parents recognize that our lives are no longer our own. There is someone who needs our undivided attention, and we willingly share it with that person. This is one small example of what Jesus calls us to do when he tells us to love one another as he has loved us.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Not everyone who needs help asks for it. Who among your relatives, neighbors, and fellow parishioners could use a helping hand? Discuss with your family someone you could be of service to and how you could help.

Hints for at Home

Keep track of ways that members of your family experience God's love through others. Using a pen or marker, divide a sheet of paper into seven sections, one for each day of the week. Encourage family members to record in the appropriate section any acts of kindness they have received from others on that day. For example, a child might write "Mom made my favorite dessert," or a parent might say "Gina brought me a flower." Entries do not have to be limited to family members. At the end of the week, review the sheet together.



In Our Parish

With your child check your parish bulletin for opportunities to help others in your parish. Possibilities include praying for those who are sick, sending a card to congratulate families of the newly baptized, or creating treats or small gifts for residents of a local nursing home. Choose a project that family members can do together. Discuss with your child how the activity is a way of following Jesus' commandment of love.

Focus on Prayer

Your child prayed the Act of Love. Pray it together as a family. Talk about ways to follow Jesus' commandment of love by loving others as God taught us. Remember to include the granting of forgiveness and the asking of others' forgiveness as ways of showing our love for God. You can find the words to the Act of Love at www.FindingGod.org.



The Beatitudes

Session 7



Think of a time when someone hurt you. How did you feel, or what did you do when that person said, "I'm sorry"?



PRAYER

Jesus, my guide, show me how to live as you lived so that I may be truly happy and share my happiness with others.

The Sermon on the Mount

One day when many people had gathered around him, Jesus went up on a hill and began to teach. This teaching from Matthew's Gospel is called the **Sermon on the Mount**. Jesus told his listeners ways to live in order to be happy. These teachings are called the Beatitudes.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.*

*Blessed are they who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.*

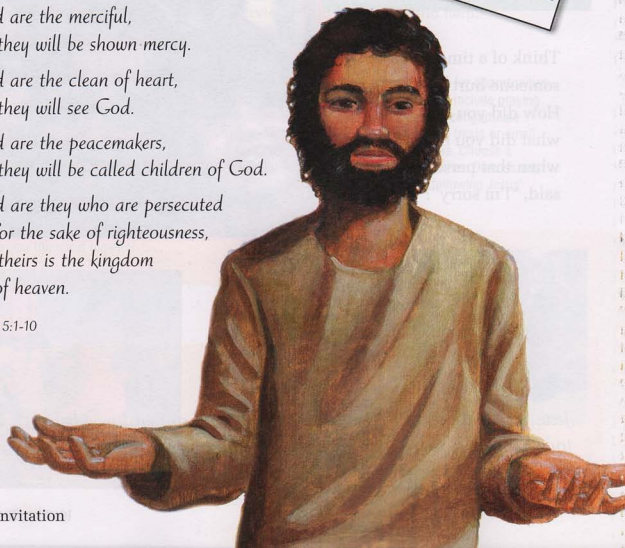
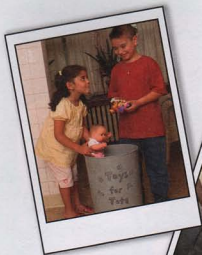
*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven.*

Matthew 5:1-10



Questions About Jesus' Teachings

Children at St. Mary's school are learning about the Sermon on the Mount. As Father Terry reads Jesus' words, they have many questions.

Emma asks, "How can someone be poor in spirit?"

Father explains that people who are poor in spirit know that they can depend on God first.

Patrick asks whether *mourn* means to be sad.

"Yes," says Father. "Jesus tells us that when we feel sad because people are unkind to one another, God will comfort us."

"Who are the meek?" asks Kathy.

"They are people who are kind and gentle," Father replies.

"What do the righteous want?" asks Jordan.

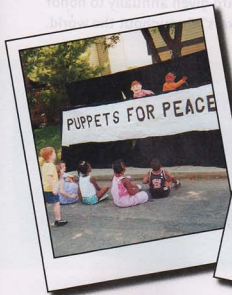
"The righteous want justice and fairness for everyone. This beatitude assures them that God's will shall be done," Father says.

Then he asks, "How can we be merciful?"

Joe answers correctly, "By forgiving people who hurt us."

Emma does not understand what "clean of heart" means.

"The clean of heart are those who constantly try to listen to God's commands and sincerely worship him," Father answers.



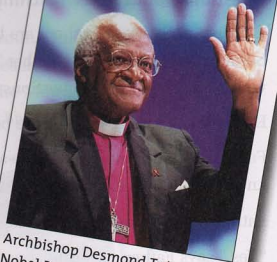
Father asks, “How can we be peacemakers?”

He nods in agreement as the children answer: “Love others. Practice forgiveness. Try to get along with others.”

“Are some people persecuted for doing what’s right?” asks Rebecca.

“Sometimes,” says Father Terry, “people persecute, or harm, others who try to follow God’s laws. Jesus is telling us that people who are persecuted for doing what is right are serving God’s kingdom.”

After answering the students’ questions, Father Terry says, “The Beatitudes are Jesus’ recipe for living a happy life. They describe the ways we can serve God’s kingdom. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can learn to make the Beatitudes the recipe for our lives.”



Archbishop Desmond Tutu,
Nobel Peace Prize, 1984



Rigoberta Menchú,
Nobel Peace Prize, 1992

The Nobel Peace Prize is an award given annually to honor the efforts of “peacemakers” throughout the world.



Reading God’s Word

*How good God is to the upright,
the LORD, to those who are clean of heart!*

Psalm 73:1

Living the Beatitudes

Draw a line matching each Beatitude listed in the left-hand column with what you might do to put it into practice.

Blessed are . . .

the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

the meek, for they will inherit the land.

they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

the clean of heart, for they will see God.

the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Depend on God first.

Be kind to others.

Always try to listen to God.

Comfort those who are sad.

Forgive people who have hurt your feelings.

Treat others fairly.

Do the right thing even when it is difficult.

Try to get along with others.



Link to Liturgy

When we exchange the sign of peace at Mass, we show our willingness to forgive others and to accept them as brothers and sisters in Christ.





PRAYER



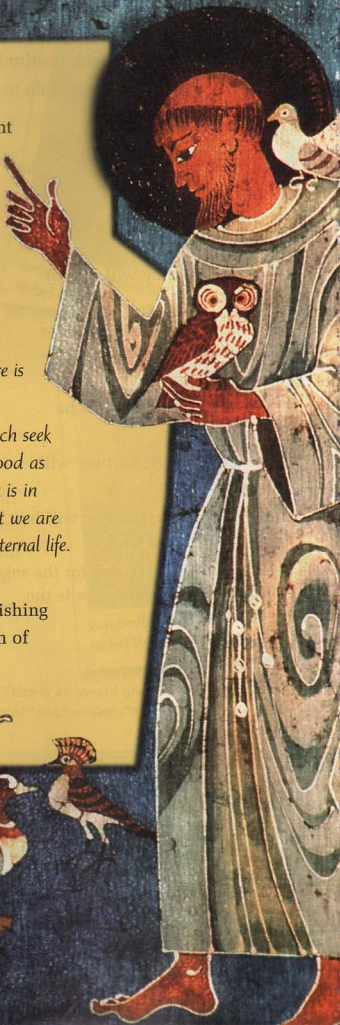
Saint Francis of Assisi loved God and spent his life trying to be like Jesus. He often asked God to help him be a peacemaker. Pray Saint Francis's prayer together.

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where
there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt,
faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is
darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console, to be understood as
to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in
giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.*

We often use a handshake as a way of wishing others peace in their lives. Offer this sign of peace to the person on each side of you.



Living My Faith

Faith Summary

The Beatitudes show us how Jesus wants us to live. They promise that we will live in the Kingdom of God with Jesus if we live the way Jesus tells us.

Word I Learned

Sermon on the Mount

Ways of Being Like Jesus

Jesus gave us the Beatitudes, his recipe for acting according to God's teachings. You are like Jesus when you comfort someone who looks sad.

With My Family

During the next week try not to say "goodbye" to one another. Instead say, "Walk in peace." Say this at times such as when you are leaving for school, going out to play, or hanging up the telephone.



PRAYER

*Thank you, Jesus, for giving us a plan to live as God wants us to live.
Please help me to be kind to someone else each day.*

My Response

Reread the Beatitudes. Select one that especially appeals to you.
Write ways that you can practice that beatitude in your life.



RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

The Beatitudes in Our Lives

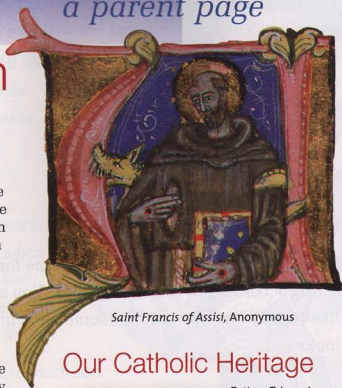
As parents we have many opportunities to practice the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:1-10. We are poor in spirit when we recognize that we are dependent on God for help. We mourn when we are saddened at the way people suffer in the world. We act with meekness when we are slow to anger and gentle with our children in difficult times. We practice mercy when we truly forgive them. We are pure of heart when we share with our children our commitment to promote justice in the world. We have many opportunities to be peacemakers in the way we love and restore harmony while protecting the dignity of each person. The Beatitudes comprise the virtues that help us create a Christian family.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Share with your child one time when you noticed something that he or she had done that exemplified living the Beatitudes, something like forgiving a friend or sharing with someone younger. Compliment your child on his or her good Christian behavior. Let your child know that you noticed.

Hints for at Home

Create a quiet corner where family members can reflect on ways to create peace within themselves, in their parish, in the community, and in the world. Add objects that suggest peace to those in your family. Encourage each member to spend two minutes per day in the spot and to respect the quiet, peaceful time that others spend there.



Saint Francis of Assisi, Anonymous

Our Catholic Heritage



Father Edward Joseph Flanagan was born in Ireland in 1886 and came to America in 1904. Eight years later he became a priest and served parishes in Nebraska. Father Flanagan's works

reflect the depth of his compassion for people who are poor and those who are homeless. He started the Workingmen's Hotel, a shelter for destitute men in Omaha, Nebraska. Then, in 1917, he established Boys Town, a shelter for homeless boys. Boys Town was renamed Girls and Boys Town in 1979, when it began accepting girls. Although Father Flanagan died in 1948, his work with troubled youth continues to this day.



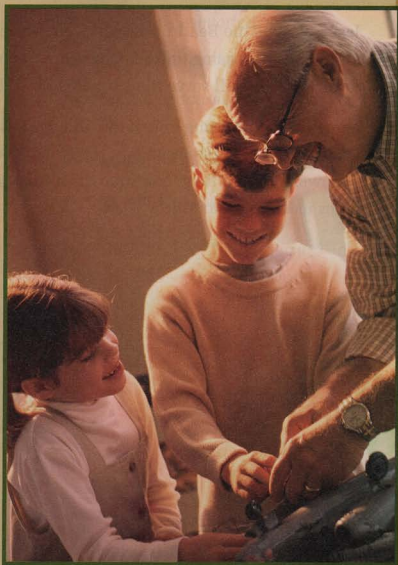
Focus on Prayer

Your child prayed the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis. Encourage your child to love and to pardon others for their selfish acts. Pray the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis together. You can find the words to the peace prayer attributed to Saint Francis at www.FindingGod.org.

Review

Session 10

Jesus lived among us to teach us about God's love. He showed us how to live as God wants us to live because he wants us to be with him in God's kingdom. What is one way in which you follow Jesus' teachings?



PRAYER

Jesus, Son of God, give me the strength to follow your example in showing God's love to others.

Choral Reading: The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes can be recited as a choral reading with two groups.

Group A

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

Blessed are they who mourn,

Blessed are the meek,

Blessed are they who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,

Blessed are the merciful,

Blessed are the clean of heart,

Blessed are the peacemakers,

Blessed are they who are
persecuted for the sake
of righteousness,

Group B

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

for they will be comforted.

for they will inherit the land.

for they will be satisfied.

for they will be shown mercy.

for they will see God.

for they will be called children of God.

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Vocabulary Match

On the line before each word in the left column, write the letter of the phrase in the right column that tells its meaning.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ redemption | a. the rising of Jesus to heaven |
| _____ Beatitudes | b. Jesus' act of saving |
| _____ Ascension | c. Savior |
| _____ fortitude | d. practical ways to serve God |
| _____ Redeemer | e. strength to do what is right |
| _____ Torah | f. the first five books of the Bible |
| _____ Works of Mercy | g. Jesus' recipe for a happy life |

