

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

M2, Mystagogy • The Laity: Called to Build God's Kingdom

God is Calling You

Everyone in the Church works for God. Some people, like priests, and nuns, give their lives in a special way for God. But you don't have to be ordained or take vows to work for God. People who are not ordained are "lay." Together, we are the "laity." Jesus calls everyone to serve God.



You are now a member of God's family. That means God is calling you to be a brother or sister to all the people.

Jesus explains it something like this, "You are chosen to praise God and to tell the whole world about God's love." He calls God's family "a royal priesthood." Everyone, even you, has a very special job to do for God.

In your human family, there are special things you do to serve your parents and siblings. Being family means loving, helping, and doing things to please others in the family.

That's the way God's family works too. God calls you to serve and love all people in Jesus' name. When you were baptized, you became a child of God — just like the members of your Church. Together you can accomplish what Jesus asks of you — to praise God, love others as Jesus loves you, and spread the word about God's love and forgiveness.

List one or two ways you can serve God today.



How you can serve

You already know that you can serve God by praying with the Church and learning all you can about Jesus. But you can also serve God every day — when you are at school, home, playing sports, or sharing with friends. Wherever you

are and whatever you're doing, you can serve God.

At home

At home with your family, there are good opportunities to serve God. You begin by giving love — that's the easy part. But being a family takes a lot of work. Even the children must help.

Do you have a younger brother or sister who needs someone to play with? Don't hide! Think of a fun game you can play to make the younger ones smile!

How does your room look? Is it a mess? Does it make your mother sad or angry to see it? Dig in and clean it up — without being asked!

Who's doing the dishes tonight? You can serve God by helping with the after-dinner clean up — without grumbling!

List three things you do at home to serve God.

I fed ROVER
and filled HIS
WATER DISH!

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

M3, Mystagogy • Your Special Gifts



GIFTS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

When you were baptized, you celebrated your "birth" into God's family.

Like any birthday, this one comes with gifts — gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives many different gifts to many different people.

See if you can discover which of the following gifts you have been given and have received.



MIGHTY DEEDS

WISDOM

Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit that helps a person to see God's work in the world. A wise person learns about God from every experience. A person with the gift of wisdom is always ready to listen when you need someone to talk to. This person feels at peace most of the time because he or she knows that God will make everything turn out all right.

Name someone you know who has the gift of wisdom. How can you tell?

Do you have the gift of wisdom? How do you use it?

KNOWLEDGE

The person who receives the gift of knowledge uses what he or she knows to help others. If you're good at math and your classmate has trouble, you can use the gift of knowledge to help. The one who always helps others at games probably is someone with the gift of knowledge. This gift doesn't mean you're smarter than anyone else. It just means that you're willing to share what you know to help others.

Name someone you know who has the gift of knowledge. How can you tell?

Do you have the gift of knowledge? How do you use it?

HEALING

The person with the gift of healing doesn't have to be a doctor or a nurse. Healing means helping someone feel better. Anyone who is good at making sad people smile, calming the fears of worried people, or soothing the pain of hurting people has the gift of healing.

Do you know someone who has the gift of healing? How can you tell?

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

M4, Mystagogy • Family Life

YOUR FIRST CHURCH

The leaders of the Church tell us that home is a child's first Church. Many of the things Jesus is trying to teach you are things you learn from your family. Read the following words and write the name of the person who first taught you to follow Jesus' command.

Love
one
another.

If you have two
coats, give to the
person who
has none.

My Father in
heaven will provide
all you need.

Forgive
one
another.

Sharing Jesus Stories

You can be Church at home by sharing the stories of Jesus. Your parents can get a Mass book with the Sunday readings. Before Mass, read the story together. Then you can talk about it. You will be surprised at how much more interesting the readings are at Mass when you already know what they will be.

What is your favorite Jesus story and why?

...And Jesus took
the loaves and fish...



Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

M5, Mystagogy • Your Prayer Life

All about prayer

In the last session, we talked about families praying together. We discussed different times and ways that your family can invite God into your home. But you and God can have a great relationship even when you only pray with each other.

**How and why do you pray?
List three things that
lead you to prayer.**

A gift you receive and give

The ability to pray is a special gift that God gives to you. And prayer is also a gift you can give to God. Here is a little poem about prayer and you and God that might help you remember what it's all about.

Sometimes it may seem as though prayer is the hardest thing in the world to do. This is especially true if you have to learn a certain prayer by heart, with words that don't really make sense to you. But, as the little poem says, there are other ways to pray that don't require you to memorize anything. All you have to do is turn to God in love. Share your good times and your bad times — and let God into your heart. That is the real secret of prayer.

A LOVE CONNECTION TO GOD

If you really want to feel close to God in all that you do every day; if you want to give God all of your love, what you have to do is pray.

Prayer is your love connection, and it is really quite easy to do. For Jesus is patiently waiting for a love connection with you.

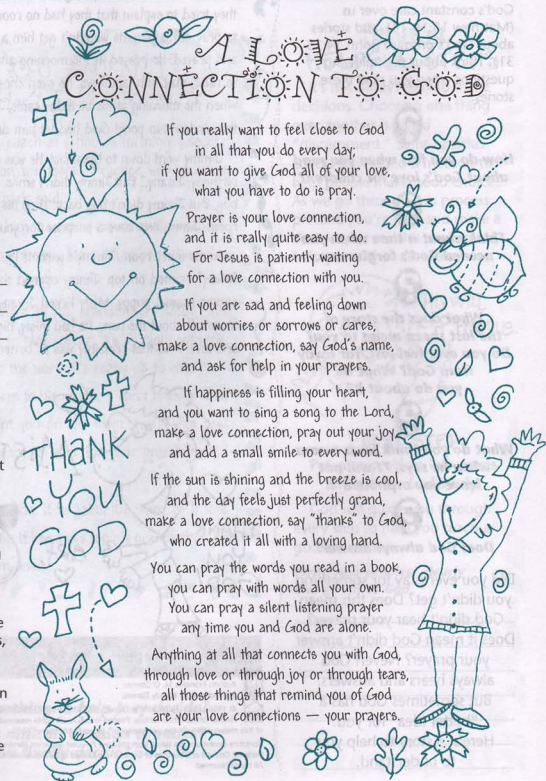
If you are sad and feeling down about worries or sorrows or cares, make a love connection, say God's name, and ask for help in your prayers.

If happiness is filling your heart, and you want to sing a song to the Lord, make a love connection, pray out your joy, and add a small smile to every word.

If the sun is shining and the breeze is cool, and the day feels just perfectly grand, make a love connection, say "thanks" to God, who created it all with a loving hand.

You can pray the words you read in a book, you can pray with words all your own. You can pray a silent listening prayer any time you and God are alone.

Anything at all that connects you with God, through love or through joy or through tears, all those things that remind you of God are your love connections — your prayers.



Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

M6, Mystagogy • Discernment

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

Joey has a problem. The coach at school is forming a soccer team and asked Joey to be on the team. "Practice will be every afternoon after school," the coach said.

Joey's grandfather wants him to work at his store after school. If Joey does this, he can earn money for his mother's birthday present.

Joey explained the problem to his grandfather. "Joey," his grandfather said, "if you want to play soccer, it's all right with me. I can find someone else to do the work. It's really up to you."

Joey explained the problem to his coach. "I can't tell you what to do," the coach said. "I want you on the team. You're the best player in school. But if you want to work for your grandfather, I understand."

Joey doesn't know what to do. If he joins the team, he'll lose his chance to earn extra money. If he works for his grandfather, he will let his coach and the team down.

SEVEN HELPFUL STEPS

It's not always easy to make decisions. Choosing one thing over another is called "discernment." Saint Ignatius Loyola developed a method to help people make good choices. As we go through this process, pretend you're Joey and make a decision, or use this process to help you with a decision.



FIRST STEP

Put your problem into words and ask for God's help.

God will guide you through every step to help you reach a good decision.

Write your problem clearly and give it to God.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Can you think of something to help Joey decide?

Have you ever had a difficult decision to make?

How did you finally decide?

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

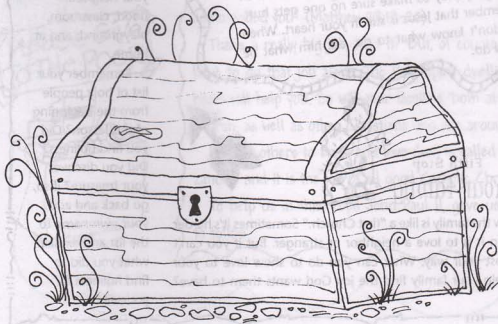
M7, Mystagogy • Holiness

Finding the hidden treasure

The hidden treasure we will seek today is holiness. First, you have to really understand what you are looking for. List the three most holy people you know and explain why you think they are holy.

(Leave number four blank. You will fill it in later.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Create Your Own
Holiness Treasure Map



First Stop
Your Church



The first stop on your search for holiness is your Church. Every time you go to Mass, you learn to praise God and love your friends and neighbors. You sing songs about God's goodness. You hear stories about God and God's people.

And, best of all, you receive Jesus in your heart during Communion. Jesus is the best guide you can have on your search for holiness.

Remember that Jesus gave us two great commandments. The first commandment is "Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). As you pray together with friends and family, you can learn the secret of truly loving God.



Editor: Shephall Graf.
Author: Francine M. O'Connor.
Art and design: Wendy Barnes.



©1998 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 65057-9999.
Published with ecclesiastical approval. Compliant with the Roman Missal, third edition. Printed in U.S.A. All rights reserved. It is a violation of copyright law to reproduce all or part of this material without the permission of Liguori Publications.

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America and the New American Bible. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

M8, Mystagogy • Evangelization



HOLY
SPIRIT



Share Your Faith



Please!
use
MY
BIBLE.

Before he returned to heaven, Jesus commanded the disciples (that's us) to go out and teach others about God and God's love. He said to them, "make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

That's a really big job, isn't it? But, of course, you don't have to do that job alone. The Holy Spirit dwelling in your heart will help you. So will your families, both at home and church, as well as other Christians who are around you.

Helping others to know and love God is called "evangelization," and it is the job of all good Catholic Christians.

To help us in this, Pope John Paul II, gave us five steps to follow.

Please Give
To The POOR



Welcome
one
AND
all!

