

Saint Mary Youth Ministry

The Gospel of John

February 2011

Middle School Edition



JOHN 13

The hour has come to depart from you and go to the Father.

-- He loved His own...He loved them to the end.

◇ The betrayal was at hand.

Have you ever experienced being betrayed by a friend? _____

Do you remember the events that lead up the moment of betrayal?

Do you feel like you had a warning?

Has that experience changed the way you think about choosing friends?

The washing of the feet

- ◇ Peter, you will not wash my feet
- ◇ Jesus, unless I wash your feet, Peter, you will be no part of me.
- ◇ Peter, then wash all of me
- ◇ The apostles were to wash the feet of others, serve others as Jesus did.
- ◇ You call me teacher and Lord...and I wash your feet
- ◇ You must do as I do.

Servants used to wash the feet of guests. How do you think the apostles felt about Jesus washing their feet?

One of you will betray me

- ◇ Do quickly what you must do
- ◇ I will be with you only a little while longer
- ◇ I give you a commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.
- ◇ Before the cock crows, you will deny me.

Have you ever betrayed a friend by ignoring them because others might not like that person?

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend who ignored you?

JOHN 14

I go to prepare a place for you...

- ◇ I am the Way, the Truth and the Light
- ◇ Who ever has seen me has seen the Father
- ◇ Believe I am in the Father and the Father is in me.

Without saying it directly, Jesus knows His time on earth is coming to an end and is preparing His friends to continue this movement focusing on love, justice and peace for all people.

- ◇ If you love me you will keep my commandments
- ◇ I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever.
- ◇ This is the Spirit of Truth...He abides in you , He will be with you.
- ◇ I will not leave you orphaned

When you feel your life is filled with confusion, frustration, fear...do you talk to God?

With Jesus telling the apostles to continue His Works, the focus is taking care of others in need. When was the last time you feel like you made an impact by helping others...what did you do?

CHAPTER 15

I am the vine...you are the branches

Remember, remember to love one another as I have loved you.

I do not call you servants anymore, I call you friends

The above is repeated for the second time in chapter 15 with the added emphasis on:

You did not choose me, I have chosen you.

Most of you have been studying the Faith since Kindergarten or 1st grade. As you continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, why do you think God has chosen YOU?

God gives people His followers the gift of free will...choice. Sometimes you may turn your back on God because you're focused on what YOU want, instead of what God wants you to do. Have you ever blamed God for consequences of bad choices?

The Communion of Saints

Break into small groups

On paper, list as many saints about whom you know at least one fact.

Go thru list with group

Cross off any saints duplicated with anyone else.

The one with the most saints wins.

Using the patron saint resource, discover which saints you have something in common with.

Confirmation candidates should begin researching the saint whose name they'll be taking. If they choose to keep their baptismal name...they also should take time to research that saint. This will be part of the Confirmation retreat and interview with Fr. Jim.

Saint Quotes:

"The saints are like the stars. In his providence Christ conceals them in a hidden place that they may not shine before others when they might wish to do so. Yet they are always ready to exchange the quiet of contemplation for the works of mercy as soon as they perceive in their heart the invitation of Christ." ~Saint Anthony of Padua

"Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees." ~ William Cowper

"Love, and do what you like." ~ Saint Augustine

Photo by Tom Pricea CRS



Haiti

*Catholic Relief Services and its local partner, Caritas Haiti, have established an agriculture school to teach farmers about diversifying crops and improving growing methods. The farmers are planting cassia tree seedlings along the hillsides, which will nourish the land with nitrogen and protect the soil from erosion. This program is grounded in the Catholic social teaching principle of **Care for God's Creation**.*

My name is Jeanne Ornelie Desir, and I live in Bon Pas, a small town on the coast of Haiti. My husband and I are working to support a family of twenty, six of our own children and twelve additional relatives who had to leave Port-au-Prince after the January 12, 2010 earthquake. Many households in our community expanded to care for refugees of the earthquake. This has placed a serious strain on our food resources. Like most of our neighbors, we rely on farming to support our family, and we usually only grow enough to feed our own family of eight. Additionally, deforestation has caused soil erosion, flooding and damage to our land, which reduces the number of crops that we can grow.

Since I started attending CRS' agriculture school, I have begun growing tomatoes, eggplant, leeks and carrots. I will use some of this food to feed my family and will sell the rest at the local market. Now we have beautiful gardens with plenty of vegetables to eat. And we are planting trees to fertilize the land.

Catholic social teaching focus: Care for God's Creation

We are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given.

Facts about Haiti

Population	9.2 million
% who are undernourished	58%
% living in poverty	80%
% with access to safe drinking water	58%
Male/Female adult literacy (age 15 and above)	54.8% / 51.2%
Male/Female primary education enrollment	Not available

Objectives

- Students will understand the Catholic social teaching (CST) principle Care for God's Creation.
- Students will engage in an activity that allows them to reflect, pray and memorialize.

Materials Needed: world map, construction paper cut into leaf shapes (1 per student), poster board, small live houseplant, copies of the *Canticle of the Sun* for each student

Discussion (10 minutes)

1. Locate Haiti on a map.
2. Have a student pre-read Jeanne Ornelie Desir's story and then read it aloud to the class.
3. Ask students to paraphrase the story. What might it have been like for her to open her home to people affected by the earthquake? Why do you think she did this?
4. Discuss why Catholic Relief Services (CRS) implemented this agriculture program to help meet the basic needs of Jeanne's village after the earthquake.
5. Discuss the CST principle Care for God's Creation and how it relates to Jeanne's story.

Activity (30 minutes)

1. Recap how CRS is working with Haitians to restore their land and care for creation.
2. Distribute one paper leaf to each student.
3. Have students write on their leaves a list of things that the village has gained while working with CRS. On the other side of the leaves, invite students to write a prayer for Haiti.
4. Using the poster board, make a plaque to commemorate Jeanne's efforts and to remember all those who suffered and/or died in the Haiti earthquake. Invite each student to add a decoration or prayer intention to the plaque.

Closing Prayer/Reflection (5 minutes)

1. Place the houseplant and the memorial plaque in the center of the prayer space.
2. Invite students to come forward and place their construction paper leaves around it.
3. Together read *The Canticle of the Sun* by St. Francis of Assisi.
Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To you, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name. Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and You give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness. Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens You have made them, precious and beautiful. Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which You give Your creatures sustenance. Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure. Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong. Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs. Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of You; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for by You, Most High, they will be crowned. Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve him with great humility.
4. Keep this memorial display in a prominent place in your classroom.

Links to Other Subjects

- **Science:** Research deforestation. What is it and how does it affect the environment?
- **Sociology:** What are the dynamics of farming? Of sharing a house with a large family?

ACTIONS

February Actions

Catholic Relief Services: Faith group Lent project

Faith Formation: Aides/subs needed.

Pastoral Care: *Camillus*. March 12/13 after Masses;
Gathering Place bags.

Liturgy & Worship: Weekend Masses
Child Care (2nd & 4th Sundays during 10:30 am)

Christian Concerts

Chris Tomlin Thursday, March 10, 2011

With special guests Louie Giglio and Christy Nockels.

Concert will be at 7:00 PM.

The concert will be held at the Coliseum Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI.

Tickets are \$35 and \$25.

To purchase your tickets call 1.800.745.3000.

Price: \$25 - \$35 **Venue:** Coliseum Alliant Energy Center



KEEP HOLY THE SABATH: LIGHT THE FIRE WITHIN



Steve Angrisano, an internationally known singer, song-writer and speaker will inspire, challenge and enliven your relationship with God and one another. Invite your friends & neighbors, everyone is welcome.

February 15, 16 & 17

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

2222 Shopiere Rd., Beloit

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Every night will be different so plan on attending each one. A free will offering will be taken.