

Saint Mary Youth Ministry

The Gospel of John

*February 2011*

*Sophomore Edition*



HE loved HIS OWN to the BRIM

## 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 Blain Carney/CRS



## Senegal

*Catholic Relief Services works with its partner, Caritas Senegal, to help the poorest members of communities in the Kolda region access credit to start their own businesses. Through microfinance projects, families are able to earn an income and save money for long term needs such as medical care and education. This program is grounded in the Catholic social teaching principle of the **Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers**.*

My name is Boubacar Diao and I live in Galouel, a village in the Kolda region of Senegal. I bake bread to sell to people in my village. Before joining the microfinance project, I was only able to work when stores were willing to provide me with credit to buy flour. During Ramadan or other important community events I usually could convince them that I would sell enough bread and be able to pay for the credit. Sometimes the stores would give me flour, but other times they would not. It was difficult to provide food for my family because I did not have stable work or a steady income.

With the support of CRS, I joined a microfinance project that allows me to take out small loans to buy flour and other supplies that I need to bake bread. I am now able to work throughout the year and have started to save a little money. I can buy school materials for my children and provide food for my family. I've been able to pay off my original loan, and I hope with my next loan to buy some new equipment to expand my business.

### **Catholic social teaching focus: Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers**

The ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves and to work in good conditions.

### **Facts about Senegal:**

Population . . . . .	14 million
% who are undernourished . . . . .	26%
% living in poverty . . . . .	54%
% with access to safe drinking water . . . . .	77%
Male/Female adult literacy (age 15 and above) . . . . .	51.1% / 29.2%
Male/Female primary education enrollment . . . . .	71% / 70%

## Objective

- Students will illustrate key aspects of the Catholic social teaching (CST) principle the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers by participating in a microfinance role play.

**Materials Needed:** *bible, poster boards, markers*

## Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

**Leader:** The cycle of poverty can be transformed into a cycle of prosperity when a community works together to uphold the rights of all of its members. Today we offer up our prayers for Boubacar Diao of Senegal.

*Choose volunteers to read John 4:5-42 and the story of Boubacar Diao.*

**Leader:** Loving God, Who blesses our work, guide us in our efforts to uphold the right of all people to earn a living from their labor. We pray for the continued success of the microfinance program in Boubacar's village. And we thank you for the humbling opportunity to serve You through service to our brothers and sisters.

## Discussion (5 minutes)

1. Introduce students to the CST principle the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.
2. What do you notice about Boubacar's ability to earn a living before and after his participation in the microfinance project?
3. How does Boubacar's story relate to the Dignity of Work?

## Activity (30 minutes)

1. Divide class into small groups, and instruct students that they are participants in a microfinance project.
2. Tell groups they will receive \$200 to start their own businesses, and if they are able to repay their loans, they can take out another loan to expand those businesses.
3. Groups should choose a business and develop a plan to launch, expand and sustain it. They should also consider how they will repay their loans and develop a repayment plan. Finally, each group should decide how to use their profits.
4. On their poster board, each group should create an illustration to represent their business. The poster should also include highlights from their business plan, repayment plan, and profit allocation plan.
5. When each group has completed their poster board, invite students to present their businesses to the class. The other groups will evaluate each presentation and then vote on whether the group should receive a second loan.

## Links to Other Subjects

- **Math:** Contrast the interest rates and default rates of a traditional bank loan against a microfinance loan. Why do microfinance loan default rates remain so low?
- **History/Civics:** Research the origins of microfinance. How has microfinance impacted villages, cities, countries?

## 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.