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Eternally We Build.  
God's Home, God's Family...

# Children's Ministry Faith Formation

## Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade

**October 2008**

October is a very special month at St. Francis of Assisi. October 4, is the Feast Day of our patron saint. On that morning we will have the Blessing of the Animals in the courtyard of the church at 10:00 a.m. We invite all the children of our parish to bring their pets for this special occasion. Pets must either be on a leash or in a pet carrier.

October 4 is also the day that the young people of our parish will be receiving their final sacrament of Initiation. Please keep these Confirmandi in your prayers as they unite themselves more firmly with Christ through the sacrament of Confirmation.

There will be no classes the week of October 5. In lieu of attending class we ask that our families attend Cultural Days on October 11 at St. Francis of Assisi. As part of our Year of the Church curriculum, the children and their families will be able to learn about how our Catholic faith is celebrated throughout the world. Parents **must** accompany their children to this event. Child care is not provided.

### Customs and Traditions



**Ss. Simon and Jude**

#### Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude

According to tradition, Ss. Simon and Jude joined together in preaching the Gospel in Syria and Mesopotamia, and both were martyred in Persia. Their feast day is October 28. In England, the traditional food for this feast is dirge cakes or, as we know them, doughnuts. The circular form of the cake symbolizes eternity, without beginning or end. Make these quick and fun dirge cakes on October 28 to celebrate Ss. Simon and Jude.



#### Doublequick Dirge Cakes

- 1 can refrigerated biscuits
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Oil for frying

Open biscuits, and with a rolling pin slightly flatten and stretch the biscuits. With your finger, make a hole in middle to form a doughnut shape. Fry in hot oil until golden brown, turning once.

In large bowl, mix cinnamon and sugar. Remove cooked dirge cakes from oil with tongs and allow excess oil to drip back into pan. Place hot dirge cake in sugar mixture and turn to coat.

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

**10/4:** 10:00 a.m. - Blessing of the Animals in courtyard  
7:00 p.m. - Sacrament of Confirmation

**10/5-10/9:** No class this week. Please attend Cultural Day on October 11 in lieu of class.

**10/11:** Parish Cultural Day

**10/26-30:** No class this week

**11/8:** First Reconciliation Workshop for 2nd graders and Children's Ministry Special Sacraments students.

## Saint of the Month: St. Peter Claver

*\*\*There will be many Saints depicted in our new church, through various works of art. This portion of the monthly Faith Formation newsletter will begin to introduce your family to those saints.*



A native of Spain, young Jesuit Peter Claver left his homeland in 1610 to be a missionary in the colonies of the New World. He sailed into Cartagena (now in Colombia), a rich port on the Caribbean. He was ordained there in 1615.

By this time the slave trade had been established in the Americas for nearly 100 years, and Cartagena was a chief center for it. Ten thousand slaves poured into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul and inhuman that an estimated one-third of the passengers died in transit. Although the practice of slave-trading was condemned by Pope Paul III and later labeled "supreme villainy" by Pius IX, it continued to flourish.

Peter Claver's predecessor, Jesuit Father Alfonso de Sandoval, had devoted himself to the service of the slaves for 40 years before Claver arrived to continue his work, declaring himself "the slave of the Negroes forever."

As soon as a slave ship entered the port, Peter Claver moved into its infested hold to minister to the ill-treated and miserable passengers. After the slaves were herded out of the ship like chained animals and shut up in nearby yards to be gazed at by the crowds, Claver plunged in among them with medicines, food, bread, brandy, lemons and tobacco. With the help of interpreters he gave basic instructions and assured his brothers and sisters of their human dignity and God's saving love. During the 40 years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.

His apostolate extended beyond his care for slaves. He became a moral force, indeed, the apostle of Cartagena. He preached in the city square, gave missions to sailors and traders as well as country missions, during which he avoided, when possible, the hospitality of the planters and owners and lodged in the slave quarters instead.

After four years of sickness which forced the saint to remain inactive and largely neglected, he died on September 8, 1654. The city magistrates, who had previously frowned at his solicitude for the black outcasts, ordered that he should be buried at public expense and with great pomp.

He was canonized in 1888, and Pope Leo XIII declared him the worldwide patron of missionary work among black slaves. St. Peter Claver's feast day is September 9.

Peter Claver understood that concrete service like the distributing of medicine, food or brandy to his black brothers and sisters could be as effective a communication of the word of God as mere verbal preaching. As Peter Claver often said, *"We must speak to them with our hands before we try to speak to them with*

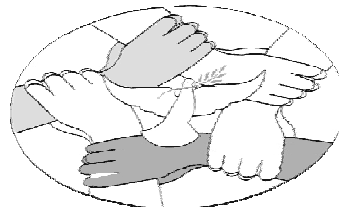
*our lips."*

### Children Needed for Cultural Day Rosary

One element of the Cultural Day celebration on October 11 will be an Outdoor Rosary, led by children, which celebrates the cultural diversity of our Catholic faith. Children's Ministry is looking for children who would like to participate by leading a portion of the Hail Mary in one of the following languages:

German, Spanish, French, Italian, Filipino, Hindi, Irish, Cheyenne Indian, Indonesian and Russian.

Prayer cards of the Hail Mary prayer in your child would like to participate, office.



the various languages will be provided. If please contact the Children's Ministry