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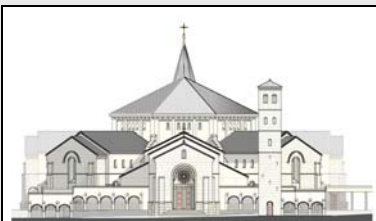
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Eternally We Build:
God's Home, God's Family...

Children ' s Ministry Faith Formation

October 2006

October is a very special month at St. Francis of Assisi. October 4, is the Feast Day of our patron saint. This year the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on October 4 and no Faith Formation classes will be held on that day.

On Saturday, October 6, 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 is Respect Life Month. We invite the children of our parish to join in prayer on Saturday, October 20. At 9:00 a.m. we will gather in front of the church for a special outdoor children ' s rosary. Please join us as we celebrate the Joyful Mysteries through prayer and song. If there is inclement weather, this special program will have to be postponed to a later date.

David Rodriguez, our Director of Hispanic Ministry, is co-hosting a radio program every Friday from noon to 1:00 on 910 a.m., our local Catholic radio station. Remember to tune in to his show "Soundbites " every Friday.

Safe Environment Update: *Starting in November, all cleared volunteers will be issued name badges with their clearance dates. These badges are to be worn at all times when volunteering at the parish.*



Important Upcoming Dates:

- 10/4:** Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - Confirmation celebrated. NO CLASSES THIS DAY
- 10/6:** Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard-10:00 a.m.
- 10/28-11-1:** No Classes
- 10/28:** World Youth Day at Six Flags
- 11/1:** All Saints Day
Holy Day of Obligation
- 11/3:** 1st Reconciliation Workshop

Customs and Traditions

Archangels are the messengers of God. The Feast Day of the Archangel Raphael used to be celebrated on October 24. His feast is now combined with St. Michael and St. Gabriel, on September 29. Explain to your children that Raphael is a good friend to busy people because he explained to Tobias that he, the Archangel Raphael, took Tobias ' place in prayer, when he was busy doing deeds of kindness. "I offered thy prayer to the Lord," said St. Raphael. Celebrate our heavenly messengers this month by making "Angel Messages " in a jar. Decorate a glass jar and fill it with messages of love, hope and joy. Read one message a day when the family gathers at dinner or for prayers.

Visit http://www.dltk-bible.com/angels/angel_quotes.htm for ideas of Angel Messages or encourage your children to write their own Angel Messages.

Saint of the Month: Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

***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.*

As we celebrate Respect Life Month, one of the best examples we have to teach us the value and dignity of all human life is Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa was born Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Yugoslavia, on August 27, 1910. Although fascinated with stories of missionary life and service as a child, Teresa did not think of becoming a nun until she was 18. In 1928, the future Mother Teresa began her religious life in Ireland, far from her family and



the life she'd known, never seeing her mother again in this life, speaking a language few understood.

One year later, in 1929, she was sent to Darjeeling to the novitiate of the Sisters of Loreto. In 1931, she made her first vows there, choosing the name of Teresa, honoring both saints of the same name, Teresa of Avila and Therese of Lisieux. In keeping with the usual procedures of the congregation and her deepest desires, it was time for the new Sister Teresa to begin her years of service to God's people. She was sent to St. Mary's, a high school for girls of wealthy families in a district of Calcutta. While teaching, Teresa heard and answered the call to give up all and follow Christ into the slums to serve him among the poorest of the poor.

Nourished by the faith, compassion and commitment of Mother Teresa, her order, the Missionaries of Charity, have grown like the mustard seed of the Scriptures. New vocations continue to come from all parts of the world, serving those in great need wherever they are found. Homes for the dying, refuges for the care and teaching of orphans and abandoned children, treatment centers and hospitals for those suffering from leprosy, centers and refuges for alcoholics, the aged and street people—the list is endless. Until her death in 1997, Mother Teresa continued her work among the poorest of the poor, depending on God for all of her needs.

Strengthen your family 's faith by praying the prayer that Blessed Teresa of Calcutta prayed every day:

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others.

Amen