

St. Aloysius Religious Education 2017-2018
4th Grade

- 4:00pm Welcome (*To ensure accuracy, **class attendance must be accurately recorded by a catechist and not another student - class attendance is an official document retained by the parish and the diocese***)
- 4:05pm *We Gather* - in Prayer at the prayer table
(*use colored table covering for appropriate liturgical season*)
Use the Gospel Reading “Hearing the Word” from the previous Sunday in Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families book in the prayer box
- 4:10pm Read about a Saint from the “Patrons and Protectors” series (*Occupations, More Occupations and In Times of Need*) by Brother Michel (Mickey) McGrath and show the artwork – Brother Mickey puts the Holy Spirit (*symbolized by a white dove*) somewhere in each painting ... see if you can find Him☺
- 4:15pm Review previous lesson using Sharing Faith (*use chapter test in book*)
- 4:20pm **Chapter #16 “The 5th Commandment”**
“You Shall Not Kill.”

The Fifth Commandment reminds us that God alone is Lord of life and death! We Catholics are called to champion human life – from the unborn new and fragile existence to the lives of those who experience the ravages of serious illness and old age. *On a daily basis, we are responsible for words and actions that either nurture life or devalue life. We Can be compassionate or uncaring; we can respond or reject; we can spread the Gospel or promote the opposite message...what will you do?!* Living things fill the face of the earth. Of all living things, only human beings are created in God’s image and likeness. We must treat all people with respect and justice. We must ask ourselves if we have done violence to others or in any way prevented them from attaining the fullness of life. Jesus recognized that anger often is the motive behind murder. Thus, he stops us far short of killing and asks us not to use hurtful words or name-calling as weapons against others. *You could read the story of “Cain and Abel.”*

- *We Believe* –
Human Dignity – the value and worth each person has from being created in God’s image.
- *We Respond* – Read about St. Elizabeth of Portugal
As disciples of Jesus we must be vigilant for and work against those things that destroy the life and dignity of the human person: scandal, injustice, prejudice, hatred, oppression of any kind, and war.

St. Elizabeth of Portugal was known for giving shelter to the homeless and feeding the hungry.
Divide the students into groups and have them put the corporal and spiritual works of mercy into the correct category and order. (*cut up the list, give each group a set of mercies and use glue sticks to affix to a page*).

- *We Respond* – Play 10 Commandment Pictionary (*the Re office will provide*)

4:55pm Closing Prayer –

“Dear Lord, through Your Apostle, St. Paul, You've taught us that there are three great virtues, Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of all is Love. Help me to understand that in order to love You and to love my neighbor, I must be alive. Father, help me to value my life, and all life, and give me courage to respect and defend the right of everyone to live as You will them to. Amen”

Ask the children to say a petition aloud for someone or something they would like to pray for.

***“Has anyone literally “saved your life”?
How can you contribute to peace-making and protecting human life issues?”***

Catechist Background on 5th Commandment:

<http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p3s2c2a5.htm>

Catechist Background on Catholic Social Teaching:

Catholic Teaching on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person: Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, each person’s life and dignity must be respected, whether that person is an innocent unborn child in a mother’s womb, whether that person worked in the World Trade Center or a market in Baghdad, or even whether that person is a convicted criminal on death row. We believe that every human life is sacred from conception to natural death, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it protects and respects the life and dignity of the human person. — USCCB Administrative Committee, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p. 13

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/>

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml>

Catechist Background on the 10 Commandments:

http://www.catholicity.com/catechism/the_first_commandment.html



St. Elizabeth of Portugal
Patroness of Peace
1271-1336
Feast is July 8th

Elizabeth is usually depicted in royal garb with a dove or an olive branch. At her birth in 1271, her father, Pedro III, future king of Aragon, was reconciled with his father, James, the reigning monarch. This proved to be a portent of things to come. Under the healthful influences surrounding her early years, she quickly learned self-discipline and acquired a taste for spirituality. Thus fortunately prepared, she was able to meet the challenge when, at the age of 12, she was given in marriage to Denis, king of Portugal. She was able to establish for herself a pattern of life conducive to growth in God's love, not merely through her exercises of piety, including daily Mass, but also through her exercise of charity, by which she was able to befriend and help pilgrims, strangers, the sick, the poor—in a word, all those whose need came to her notice. At the same time she remained devoted to her husband, whose infidelity to her was a scandal to the kingdom.

He too was the object of many of her peace endeavors. She long sought peace for him with God, and was finally rewarded when he gave up his life of sin. She repeatedly sought and effected peace between the king and their rebellious son, Alfonso, who thought that he was passed over to favor the king's illegitimate children. She acted as peacemaker in the struggle between Ferdinand, king of Aragon, and his cousin James, who claimed the crown. And finally from Coimbra, where she had retired as a Franciscan tertiary to the monastery of the Poor Clares after the death of her husband, she set out and was able to bring about a lasting peace between her son Alfonso, now king of Portugal, and his son-in-law, the king of Castile.

Elizabeth was popularly known as "the peacemaker." She is among the patron saints of peacemakers to whom we can turn in times of war.

The work of promoting peace is anything but a calm and quiet endeavor. It takes a clear mind, a steady spirit and a brave soul to intervene between people whose emotions are so aroused that they are ready to destroy one another. This is all the more true of a woman in the early 14th century. But Elizabeth had a deep and sincere love and sympathy for humankind, almost a total lack of concern for herself and an abiding confidence in God. These were the tools of her success.

The Works of Mercy

Mercy is a virtue. It compels us to alleviate the suffering of another. The Church presents us with 7 spiritual and 7 corporal works of mercy. These are ways in which we can practice charity to others and thus bring about tremendous good in the world. The practice of these works is required of all of us. These works are binding. Though it may not always be possible to practice them, as the situation does not present itself to perform these works at all times, we should always take the opportunities to live by these works when possible.

The 7 Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- To instruct the ignorant;
- To counsel the doubtful;
- To admonish sinners;
- To bear wrongs patiently;
- To forgive offenses willingly;
- To comfort the afflicted;
- To pray for the living and the dead.

The first work is to **instruct the ignorant**. By this we are called to instruct others in the faith. We must therefore, be informed about our faith so that we may properly teach it to those who do not yet know the fullness of the truth.

When we encounter those who are **unsure of their faith, we must affirm** them in it and help them grow. Everyone's faith is tested, as that is the only way it can grow. Untested faith is a house of cards, waiting to collapse. Our faith must be tested in fire so that it may be strong. There are times, however, when that fire causes the faith to be soft and malleable on its way to solidifying. During these times when our loved ones are suffering loss, persecution, or anger, and their faith is in doubt, we must stand by them and offer show them the way. We must show them the ultimate source of strength, Jesus.

The third of these works of mercy is to **admonish the sinner**. This can be the most difficult to carry out. We know that sinfulness is a very secretive and explosive matter. The sinner frequently recognizes his sins, but is defensive about them. Neglect of this particular work of mercy has led to our society being so morally relativistic. If the truth is not made known, it will be forgotten. Though it may cause strife at times, we must bear this cross and carry on. We must tell people when they are sinning. They will likely counter with the line "Stop judging me!" Of course we should not judge others, but sins are committed in plain sight, and so they must be addressed.

We must **bear wrongs patiently**. This is also a very difficult task. Our pride gets in the way. We must not be taken advantage of, says our ego. Truly, when others offend us, injure us, attack us, or undermine us, we are called to "Turn the other cheek". We can do no better than to imitate Christ, the silent victim, who by His patient, courageous endurance of all forms of bodily and mental torture. He was beaten, insulted and killed, yet in His acceptance, He purchased our redemption.

Inseparably bound with the **patient endurance of offenses, is the forgiveness** of them. When our heart is filled with bitterness and grudges, we find no room for the love of Christ within it. Forgiveness requires heroic virtue at times. Mercy dictates that we forgive others' faults and wrongs, even when it pains us greatly and gives us no temporal satisfaction. Heroism requires sacrifice. Sometimes the greatest heroism stems from the sacrifice of pride. Forgiveness is an eternal virtue, as we will find forgiveness after death to the degree that we showed it to others in this life.

There are times when all we can do is to give a thoughtful word to someone in pain or sorrow. We must **comfort the afflicted**. In doing so, we help others cope with difficulties. We build up the dignity of our brothers and sisters in Christ when we give them our time and comfort, for those who suffer, sometimes suffer the most painful of ordeals when they find no one who is willing to help them in their struggles. They find their dignity and self-worth crushed. Let us never leave a friend in misery without some heart-felt words or a loving embrace to lift them out of their affliction.

Finally, the greatest and most powerful form of mercy is **prayer**, for though we can provide physical and emotional aid to our neighbors, the Lord God can provide the greatest aid, which is spiritual. Our prayers are the most important form of mercy we can give. It shows our ultimate dedication to the alleviation of the burdens of others. Our private intercession for our neighbors and for the departed brings us little fame or admiration from others, but in the end, when we stand before God, we will be able to give an account of our prayerful mercy to others, and so Jesus will in turn show us mercy.

These works are not optional. We are called to be merciful. The opportunities are frequent and urgent. Let us not pass by the afflicted in their times of trial. Let us love others through these spiritual works so that through our sacrifice, we may bring others to the greatest joy, which is the vision of God in all His splendor in Heaven.

"And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." - Luke 3:10-11

The 7 Corporal Works of Mercy are:

- To feed the hungry;
- To give drink to the thirsty;
- To clothe the naked;
- To harbor the harborless;
- To visit the sick;
- To ransom the captive;
- To bury the dead.

Faith calls us to practice charity for our neighbors when they are in need. While we know that faith is essential for our salvation, we also know that we cannot be saved by faith alone.

"You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called 'the friend of God.' See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone." - James 2:22-24

These works of Mercy are the practical and visible ways to exercise our faith to those in need. The first and second of these works are closely related. In contemplating them, we ask ourselves, how often do we help provide for the needs of those who are **hungry and thirsty**? Do we help out at food pantries; do we donate food or money to buy food for the hungry? Our witness can be extremely powerful by giving "our daily bread" to those who so desperately need it.

We are called to give **clothing to the naked**. This thought should compel us to consider the excess of clothing that many of us have. How many pairs of shoes do we need? How many pairs of pants and shirts are really necessary for us? Is it possible for us to donate these excesses of ours in order to bring

hope to those who need it?

The issue of **homelessness** is very prominent in our world. Imagine the pain of those who truly have nowhere to go. Do we give money to the many Catholic shelters that provide such crucial aid to those who are unable to provide for themselves?

We must **visit the sick**. In doing so, we uphold the dignity of the human person. Consider the feelings of those who spend so much time in hospitals and nursing homes without the comfort of those they love. How many of our elderly are permanently confined to with little love or attention paid to them? We should freely choose to visit the shut-ins, the sick, and the lonely. We can be a great source of hope in their lives.

Now the sixth work of mercy will undoubtedly perplex many. How many captives do we know? Do we know someone who is held captive by having an unforgiving heart? Consider those in places without the right to freely practice religion. The mere act of going to mass likely brings the threat of **imprisonment**. Do we offer any help to these destitute faithful? Do we offer or even investigate the options available to us in providing help to them? Do we even pray for them? Consider also the possibilities of visiting the imprisoned. Do we care for those in jail? Let us not forget those who are imprisoned, especially those who are held captive because of their love for God.

Finally, the last of the works of the corporal works of mercy urges us to **bury the dead**. Fortunately, in our society, burying the dead is normally done with the necessary respect. There are situations, however, where this respect is forgotten and we treat the dead with neglect. Let us always show due respect for the bodies of those who have gone before us.

In practicing these corporal works of mercy, just as with the spiritual works of mercy, we build up the dignity of the human person. These are opportunities for grace in our daily lives. In exercising the Works of Mercy, we truly follow the commands that Christ gave us:

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" - Matthew 25:34-40

Catechist Background:

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/astagnaro/99-practical-recommendations-for-the-corporal-works-of-mercy>

Works of Mercy

Corporal

Feed the Hungry
Give Drink to the Thirsty
Clothe the Naked
Help the imprisoned
Shelter the Homeless
Care for the Sick
Bury the Dead

Spiritual

Share Your Knowledge with Others
Give Advice to those who need it
Comfort those who Suffer
Be Patient with People
Forgive those who Hurt us
Give Correction to those who need it
Pray for the Living and the Dead

Corporal

Spiritual

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Give Drink to the Thirsty

Clothe the Naked

Help the imprisoned

Shelter the Homeless

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