



Faith in Five- Children  
Ordinary Time Week 11

- 1. Read Matthew 9:36-10:8 together as a family. Why was Jesus troubled?** Jesus' heart was moved with compassion by the crowds because they were weary and abandoned. **What did Jesus want his disciples to do?** Jesus gave them authority to drive out unclean spirits and to heal diseases and illnesses. They were to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven! **How many of the apostles can you name?!** The twelve apostles are: Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, another James, Thaddeus, another Simon and Judas Iscariot. Unlike the apostles, we may not be able to raise the dead or drive out demons but we can proclaim the kingdom of Heaven! Jesus said "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few." Let us be counted among the laborers of Jesus. **Can you think of some ways you can proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven and share in the work of those first disciples?** We can invite friends to mass, be a good example of virtue, take cards or spend time with the ill, comfort those who are sad, talk about Jesus with those around you, and forgive those who wrong you.
- 2. Who is St. Aloysius Gonzaga?** St. Aloysius' real name was Luigi. He was born in Gonzaga, Italy in 1568. His father wanted him to be a soldier and brought him along to training camps when he was only 5 years old! **What was he like as a boy?** At a young age he began to read the lives of the saints. This inspired him to frequent prayer and fasting. He received his catechism lessons and his First Holy Communion from St. Charles Borromeo, a Cardinal who was visiting his family. Luigi was no longer interested in becoming a soldier or participating in some of their rougher behavior. Against his parents wishes, he joined the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit order. **Why is he a saint?** When Luigi was in Rome, studying for the priesthood, two awful things happened. Both a famine and a plague broke out in Italy. The black plague was highly contagious and Luigi confessed to his spiritual director that the sights and the smells of the sick people scared him. Nevertheless, he began helping out in the hospital, washing the patients and changing their bedding. After helping a sick man to his bed, Luigi himself contracted the plague and became ill. Even as death approached he continued his life of prayer. He died on June 21st. He is the patron saint of young students.
- 3. Apologetics- How do Catholics answer this question from other Christians: Are you born again?!** Yes!! Catholics are born again at their baptism. John 3:5 says "Unless one is born again of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God." There are many well-meaning and loving non-Catholic Christians who believe being born

again means only to acknowledge Jesus as their savior. The bible is clear- *Baptism* is the way that Christians become born again as members of God's family. If we have been baptized we can answer that question with confidence!

4. **What is the sacrament of Confirmation?** All sacraments are gifts from God that give us grace, help us grow in holiness and draw us into closer relationships with him. Confirmation is the completion of our Christian initiation begun at Baptism. Initiation means the beginning of something. Baptism is the beginning of the process of becoming Christian. "By the sacrament of Confirmation [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1285) With this outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, the confirmed are called to spread the Gospel and defend the faith! **Who administers the sacrament of Confirmation?** A Bishop typically presides at a confirmation mass. He will do the laying on of hands, praying over each candidate, as well as anointing the forehead with Chrism, or holy oil. **When do you get confirmed?** Today, the average age for the sacrament of Confirmation is around 13. Traditionally Confirmation was done when children were much younger, before their First Holy Communion. Some dioceses have reinstated this practice, with children receiving both the sacrament of Confirmation and then their First Holy Communion in second or third grade.
5. **What are the perfections of God?** The perfections of God are certain qualities that He alone possesses with no limit. God is almighty, all-knowing, all-present and all-good. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 2)

**REVIEW QUESTION: What is a Eucharistic procession?** A Eucharistic procession is a beautiful ritual that publicly proclaims and celebrates Jesus' presence in the Eucharist.

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