



Faith in Five- Children
Ordinary Time Week 23

- 1. How does Jesus want his disciples to handle sins against one another?** Jesus wants us to handle faults between one another with brotherly love. “Go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.” With love, comes responsibility. We belong to one another in Christ. In this gospel reading we are reminded of the authority Jesus is giving to the disciples when he says “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. This unity of the Church helps us to belong to one another in love and to keep us accountable for sin. What a gift! We aren’t alone on our journey! **What else does this unity bring?** “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” The very presence of Jesus is promised to us!
- 2. What does the Church honor during the month of September?** The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. September 15th is the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. There are seven particular sorrows our Blessed Mother endured. They are: The Prophecy of Simeon, the Flight to Egypt, Loss of Jesus in the Temple, Mary Meets Jesus on the way to the Calvary, Jesus Dies on the Cross, Mary receives the Body of Jesus, and Jesus is placed in the Tomb. **Why do we have to think about such sad things?** First, we will all experience sadness and sorrows in our life. Our Blessed Mother is an enormous source of comfort during those times. As a mother, she not only cares for us but she also knows just how we feel! Secondly, Mary shows us how to humbly accept sorrows. We look to her as a guide and model for trusting God and staying faithful to him amidst hardships. **How can we honor Mary this day and this whole month?** Hang up an image of Mary’s sorrowful heart. Spend time offering your sorrows to Mary. Read about each of her seven sorrows from the Bible. For fun, suck on lemons, sour candy or make lemonade! We are reminded that our sorrows and the bitterness of life will be turned to the sweetness of eternal life!
- 3. What does vocation mean?** A vocation is God’s call and invitation to love and serve him. Two of the most prevalent vocations are serving God through the Sacrament of Marriage or Holy Orders. Within our vocations, we serve God by loving our neighbor as ourselves. Living out that commandment, our vocations are our vehicles to Heaven! **But what about kids!? What is our vocation?** The first and important vocation is the call to holiness. That is for everybody! So as a kid, we focus on receiving the sacraments and loving God and our neighbors as ourselves. **How do we know what our vocation is as we get older?** In our prayer, we want to ask God to reveal our vocation to us. We

can pray for receptive hearts and practice quiet listening in prayer. Maria Von Trapp, the mother in The Sound of Music movie, prayed a Hail Mary everyday for each one of her children's vocations. What a beautiful idea! Pray one Hail Mary a day for your vocation. In the meantime, focus on living a life of virtue and trusting in God and in his timing!

4. **Apologetics- Do Catholics think that we earn our salvation?** Salvation is a gift from God, not earned. We accept this gift with faith and respond to this gift with charity. Charity is love in action! Philippians 2:12-13 says "work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and work."
5. **Catechism- How can we live out the first Corporal Work of Mercy to Feed The Hungry?** We can live this our first and foremost in our home. Help your parents in the kitchen at mealtimes (setting the table, chopping the vegetables, doing the drinks, getting a snack for a younger sibling). **How could you do this at school?** Helping in the cafeteria, bringing extra food to share with classmates and not wasting the food your parents did pack. **How could you feed the hungry in your community?** As a family you can donate food to the food pantry or even volunteer there once a month. There also may be a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter that would take donations or have volunteer time slots. Baking cookies to take to elderly neighbors, or helping to make a meal for a new family at your church are some other ideas!

REVIEW QUESTION: Apologetics- Why do we HAVE to go to mass in church on Sunday? Can't we feel close to God and worship him out in nature, or just reading our bible in the living room? It is a commandment to keep holy the Lord's Day. It is also a commandment of the Catholic Church that we attend mass on Sundays. In fact, it is a mortal sin to miss mass without a serious reason. This is because we owe God worship! God doesn't need our worship, but we do need the strength and grace we get from the Eucharistic feast at mass! If we decide we don't need to attend mass weekly to worship God, we are putting something else before God (sleeping in, sports, laziness, nature walks) and our priorities are off. We absolutely can encounter Our Lord outside of mass! But it does not excuse us from our obligation to attend mass. This obligation is truly a grace and a mercy as Mother Church knows what we need!

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