



First we accept it!

A couple of years ago I was presenting the synthesis of the Epiclesis and Offering. First, I reminded the children of the gestures and how the Priest performs them. Next we talked about Epiclesis and how God sends the gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us in the Eucharist. As a segue into talking about Elevation I asked the children "What do we do when someone gives us a gift?". I fully expected all or some of the children to reply "We say thank you."

However, Jayden, who was about 7 at the time, immediately responded with "First we have to accept it". His answer took my breath away, almost literally, and the other children present also looked surprised. After all, when have you ever seen a child turn down a gift? For several moments we just sat in silence pondering Jayden's words and then we launched into a beautiful discussion on what it means to accept God's gifts to us. I find myself thinking of that day often and reflecting on the times God has offered me gifts and I've turned them down. I am also reminded of how glad I am that I chose to accept the gift of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. At the time I was introduced to the program I had no intention of becoming a 'Sunday School Teacher'. After one session I was hooked and if you are reading this you know how that feels. As we celebrate Pentecost once more, it seems particularly relevant to think of Jayden and his wise words again.

Helen Lindley