



CGSUSA Bulletin Notes for September 2020

Enthronement of the Bible

Our children will begin their year with a celebration of the Enthronement of the Bible. In this celebration, the children come to know the Holy Bible as God's Word and therefore, the most precious book in the world.

Families may want to discuss:

- How can we honor the Bible here in our home?
- How can we share and live the Gospel in our home? and to
- Choose time for each family may share a favorite story from the Bible.

The Religious Environment in the Family

The development of the child's religious life begins in the family environment from the very beginning of the child's life. The following are some suggestions for nurturing the child's religious life withing the family:

- When the child is nursing or lying down parents can put an image of the Risen Christ on the cross or of the infant Jesus in His Mother's arms nearby. The parents should simply point out and name the image for the child.
- Ritual gestures, such as making the sign of the cross or blessing food, are very important for the child to see. The parents can do the gestures slowly and definitively, sometimes in silence, sometimes adding prayer words.
- The parents can prepare a prayer space for the child in his or her bedroom or in another place in the home. This space may resemble the prayer corner in the atrium. In the evening the whole family might gather at this space for a simple prayer time. The child will love the daily repetition of such a ritual.

Contact Kim Ward kward@saintpats.org 253-383-2783 x4108 from page 7 of Listening to God with Children by Gianna Gobbi to learn more about the Montessori method applied to the catechesis of children.

Exercises of Practical Life

Some of the initial presentations we offer the child concern controlled movement: how to carry an object, how to carry a chair, how to roll a mat, etc. These exercises of Practical Life help the child know oneself and others. The Practical Life exercises fosters a state of inner peace and allows for a greater capacity to listen to God. It reminds us that the ordinary is holy; that space is made sacred by acts of routine care. The care we

take in doing the small “routine” tasks develops a disposition within us of calm, focus, and listening, that serves as an aide for prayer. Parents: Has your routine work ever become a source of meditation and prayer for you?

Psalms and the Young Child

The young child’s most natural form of prayer is praise and thanksgiving. Short phrases from the Psalms written as prayer cards (on 5 x 7 cards) can be placed on the family prayer table:

Psalms 84:11 – The Lord is a sun and shield

Psalms 97:1 – The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice

Psalms 118:27 – The Lord is Good, and he has given us light

Psalms 100:1 - Shout joyfully to the LORD, all you lands

Psalms 104:1 - Bless the LORD, my soul!

The child can choose a different card to place on the prayer table. The words from sacred scripture will help develop the child’s prayer language.