

Religion Bulletin Boards

2026-2027

Teacher Guide

Faith-Centered Bulletin Boards for the School Year

Purpose of Bulletin Boards in Catholic Education

Bulletin boards are an essential teaching tool in every classroom. When thoughtfully designed, they:

- Introduce new concepts
- Reinforce ongoing lessons
- Display student work connected to faith and academics
- Create a visually engaging environment that supports Catholic identity

Every classroom in a Catholic school or PREP program should maintain at least one bulletin board dedicated to faith formation. These boards should be updated regularly to keep students attentive and involved.

Guiding Principles for Teachers and Catechists

Effective bulletin boards should be:

- Interactive — inviting students to respond, participate, or contribute
- Educational — clearly connected to classroom instruction or faith themes
- Mission-centered — reflecting Catholic values, traditions, and current Church teaching
- Age-appropriate — accessible to the developmental level of your students

Interactive boards help students recognize that what is posted is not decoration but part of their learning and spiritual growth.

Beginning the School Year

The start of the school year is an ideal time to:

- Introduce students to key traditions in Catholic education
- Highlight concerns and teachings currently emphasized in the Church
- Review and reinforce foundational prayers students should know

This sets a strong tone for faith formation from the very first weeks of school.

Bulletin Board Themes for This Year

1. Spontaneous Prayer Methods

Students will be introduced to simple, accessible ways to pray spontaneously. Featured method: • The Five-Finger Prayer, reintroduced by Pope Francis This method helps students pray for others with clarity and compassion.

2. Traditional Prayers

Each grade level should highlight traditional prayers appropriate for student development. Boards may include:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • The Sign of the Cross | • Act of Contrition | • Acts of |
| • Hail Mary | • Rosary parts, | Consecration |
| • Our Father | • Memorare, | • Litanies |
| • Glory Be | • Acts of Faith, Hope | • Morning Offering |
| • Prayers During Mass | and Love | • Prayer before |
| • Prayers at mealtime | • Divine Praises | Class |

Grade-level prayers

These boards help students build a strong foundation of memorized prayer as they progress through the grades. Each grade should have a special patron and should learn prayers to that patron. (e.g. Guardian angels.)

3. Teachings of Pope Leo XIV

We will introduce students to Pope Leo XIV's guidance on:

- Responsible use of technology
- Virtuous behavior on social media
- The moral responsibilities of digital citizenship

These teachings help students understand how faith shapes their choices in the digital world.

Implementation Tips

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|--|---|
| • Refresh boards monthly or bi-monthly | • Connect themes to lessons, morning prayer, and schoolwide activities |
| • Incorporate student work whenever possible | • Encourage student interaction (prompts, intentions, reflection cards) |
| • Use symbols and visuals that reinforce Catholic identity | |

Goal for the Year

By the end of this school year, students should:

- Recognize and practice spontaneous prayer methods
- Know and understand key traditional prayers
- Demonstrate awareness of Catholic teaching on technology and social media
- See bulletin boards as living parts of their faith formation

September

Teach-Participate-Reinforce



OUR CLASS PATRON

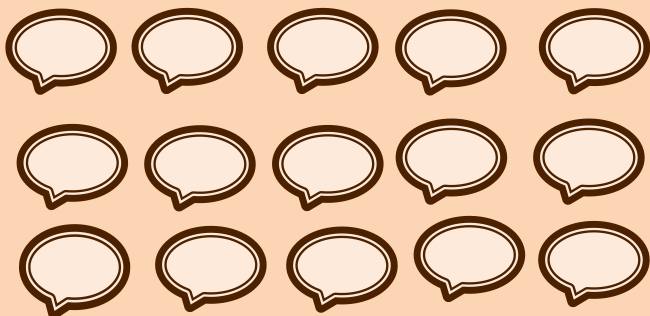
Pope Leo Teaches Us:

"Use Technology with Love!"

Be Kind Online

Be Wise With Screens

People Come First



Catholic Traditions and

Beginning-of-Year Prayers

Rollout Focus: Foundations of Catholic school traditions

Checklist:

- ☐ Display Catholic traditions
 - Class/school patron
- ☐ Post grade-level prayers
 - e.g, Confirmation class—prayer to Holy Spirit
 - • Add student prayer work
- ☐ Begin weekly intentions
- ☐ Connect board to early lessons

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Digital Disciples --How to Use the Board Throughout the Month

Week 1 — Introduce Pope Leo XIV

Explain who he is and why he wrote about technology. Keep language simple and positive.

Week 2 — Teach the Three Lessons

Discuss each lesson during morning prayer or religion class.

Week 3 — Student Participation

Invite students to add their speech bubbles

Week 4 — Reinforcement

Connect the board to real classroom moments:

- Kindness during computer time
- Putting devices away when someone speaks
- Choosing good words online

Teacher Tips

- Keep explanations short and concrete.
- Use examples from students' daily routines.
- Reinforce the idea that **Jesus is with us when we use technology.**
- Encourage students to revisit the board and add new commitments.
- Tie the board into discussions about kindness, responsibility, and prayer.

October

Pause -Pray-Proceed

Theme: Prayer students can use anywhere

By engaging with this bulletin board, students will learn to:

- Recognize moments when they need to **pause** before acting
- Ask Jesus for help through a simple, spontaneous **prayer**
- Make loving, responsible choices as they **proceed**
- Connect faith to real-life situations, especially digital behavior

Invite students to add:

- **Pause slips** — moments when they need to stop
- **Prayer slips** — short prayers asking Jesus for help
- **Proceed slips** — commitments to wise choices

Students can add new slips weekly, creating a growing display of faith-centered decision-making.

Teacher Tips

- Keep explanations short and concrete.
- Model the three steps during class.
- Encourage students to use the board during morning prayer.
- Celebrate wise choices by highlighting student contributions.
- Remind students that **Jesus is with them when they make decisions.**

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- Create a board explaining the Five-Finger Prayer
- Add icons for each “finger” intention
- Invite students to write intentions for each category
- Connect to Respect Life Month (optional)

Jesus Helps Us Make Wise Choices



Pause	Pray	Proceed
“I need to pause when I feel upset.” 	“Jesus, help me...” 	“I will proceed by putting people first.”

A FIVE-FINGER PRAYER GUIDE



November

Gratitude & Traditional Prayers



Helping Students Practice Gratitude Through Faith and Prayer

Purpose of This Bulletin Board

Rollout Focus: Thankful hearts and memorized prayer

This November bulletin board helps students recognize God's gifts. By engaging with this bulletin board, students will learn to:

- Identify people and blessings they are thankful for
- Connect gratitude to prayer using the Five-Finger Prayer
- Practice expressing thanks through words, actions, and reflection

Student Participation

Invite students to add:

- **Thankful Hands** (hand tracings with gratitude words)
- **Gratitude slips** ("Today I thank God for...")
- **Prayer intentions** for people they appreciate

Students can add new hands or slips weekly, creating a growing display of gratitude.

Week 1 — Introduce Gratitude as a Virtue

Discuss why Catholics give thanks and how gratitude reflects God's love.

Week 2 — Connect Gratitude to Prayer

Teach the Five-Finger Prayer with a focus on thanking God for people in each category.

Week 3 — Student Participation

Invite students to create their "Thankful Hands" and add them to the board.

Week 4 — Reinforcement

Use real classroom moments to revisit the board:

- Thanking classmates
- Showing appreciation to teachers
- Recognizing blessings at home



Student Worksheet: **Using Technology With Love**
Learning from Pope Leo XIV

Name: _____ Grade: _____

1. Who helps me use technology well? Circle one:

My friends

Jesus

My tablet

2 Leo XIV Teaches Us Three Big Ideas

Draw a small picture in each box to show what it means.

Be Kind Online (Draw someone using kind words on a screen.)	Be Wise With Screens (Draw someone using a timer or putting a device away.)		People Come First (Draw two people talking or playing together.)

3. My Technology Choices Check the choices that show love:

- ☐ I say kind words online
- ☐ I ignore people when I'm on a device
- ☐ I put my tablet down when someone talks to me
- ☐ I stay on screens all day
- ☐ I take breaks from screens
- ☐ I use technology to learn good things

4. Write one sentence:

"i can use technology with love when i..."

5. My Prayer

Write or trace this simple prayer:

"Jesus, help me use technology with love."

6. My Promise to Jesus



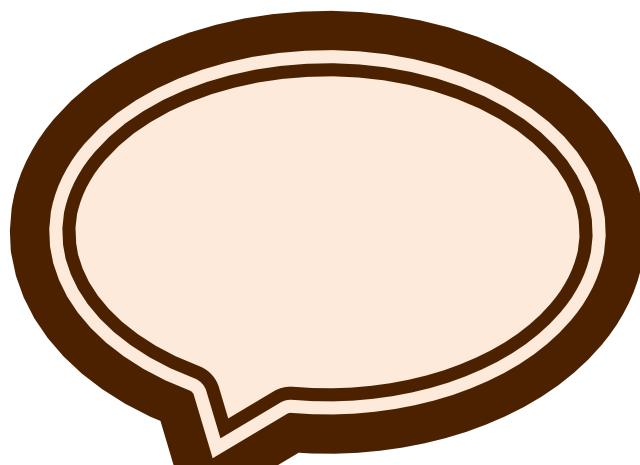
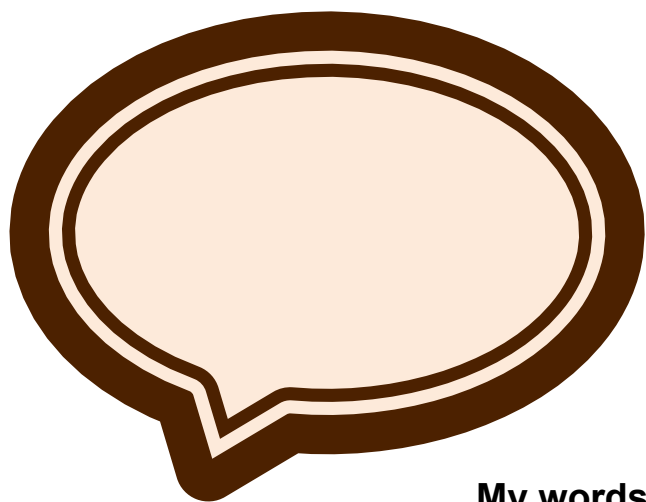
I will be kind online



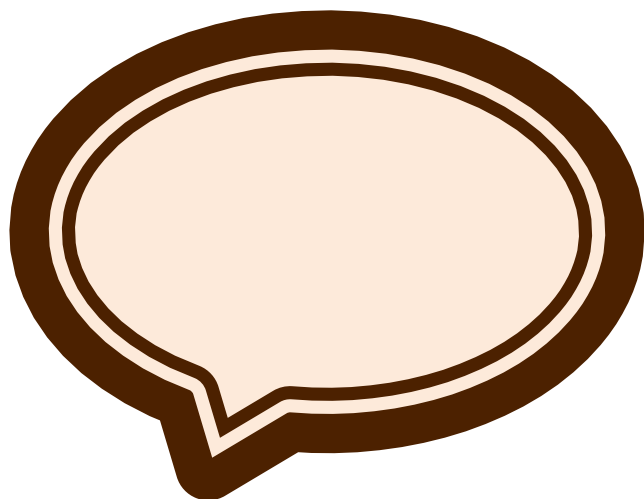
I will use screens

wisely  I will put people first

Choose one of these phrases and add it to a speech balloon to put on to the bulletin board.



**My words should show love.
Screens don't control me.
Real friends matter more than devices.**



Student Worksheet: *Using Technology With Love* Learning from Pope Leo

Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

1. What Should I Do First?

Circle the correct step:

PAUSE PRAY PROCEED

(Students should circle PAUSE — but let them choose first, then discuss.)

2. When Should I PAUSE?

Draw a picture of a moment when you need to stop and think before acting.

Ideas:

- When I feel upset
- When someone is unkind online
- When I want to grab my device right away



3. How Can I PRAY?

Write a short prayer asking Jesus to help you make a good choice.

“Jesus, help me...” _____

4. How Will I PROCEED?

Check the choices that show love and wisdom:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ I choose kind words online | ☐ I listen when someone talks to me |
| ☐ I put people first | ☐ I stay calm before I respond |
| ☐ I take a break from screens when needed | ☐ I use technology to learn good things |

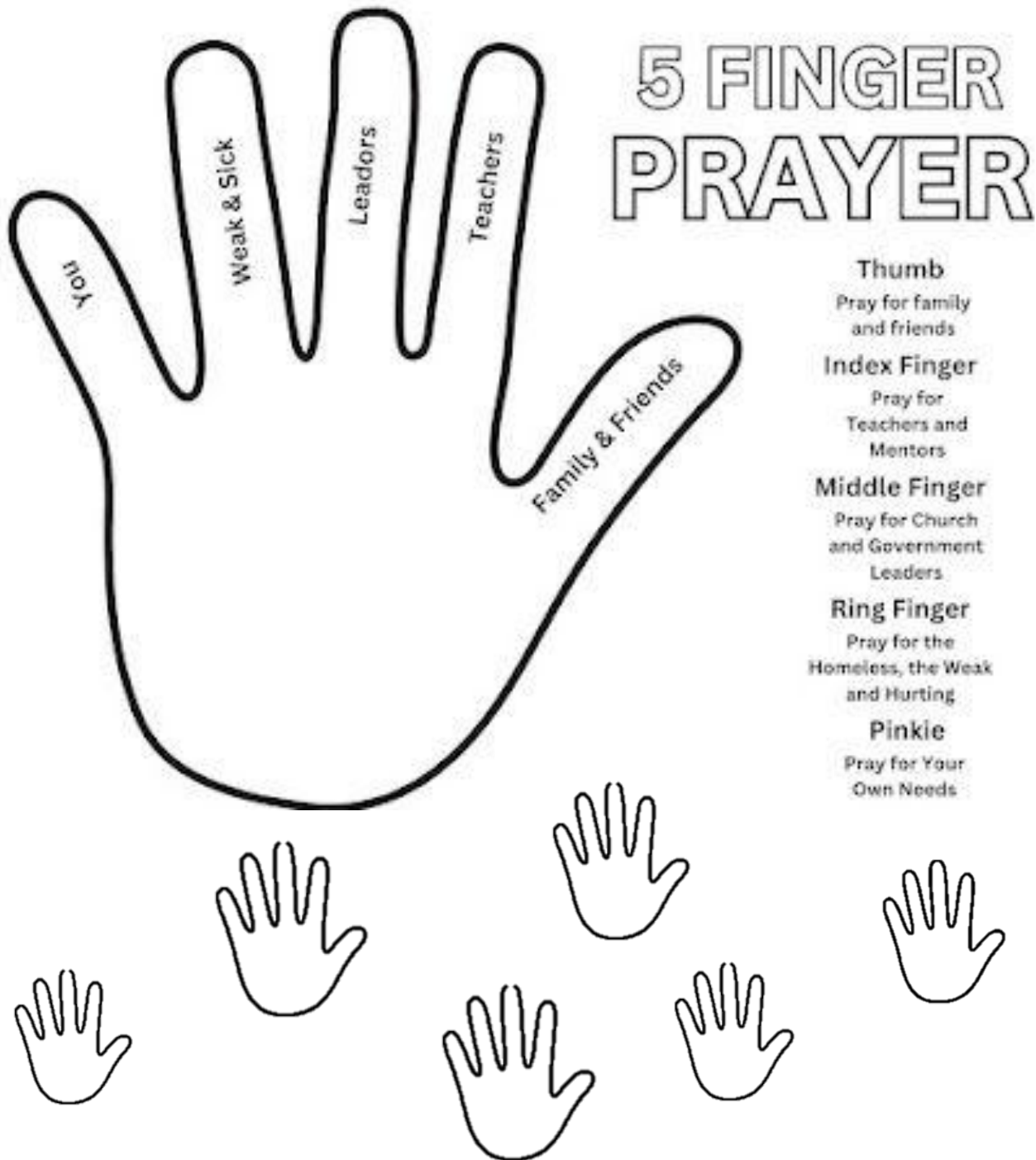
5. My October Promise

Write one sentence about how you will use technology with love this month.

6. My Prayer for October

“Jesus, help me pause, pray, and proceed with love.”

Write a prayer for each finger:



Trace your hand and cut it out. Write a phrase such as one of the following on it and place it on the bulletin board

“I thank God for...”

“I am grateful for...”

“My blessings come from God.”

Student Worksheet: **Using Technology With Love** *Learning from Pope Leo*

Giving Thanks to God

Name: _____ Grade: _____

1. Trace Your Hand

Trace your hand in the empty space below. Inside each finger, write one thing you are thankful for.

- **Thumb:** Someone who helps me
- **Index Finger:** Someone who teaches me
- **Middle Finger:** Someone who guides me
- **Ring Finger:** Someone who needs my prayers
- **Pinky Finger:** Something I need to thank God for

2. Thankful Choices

Circle the choices that show gratitude:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Saying “thank you” | • Ignoring kindness |
| • Complaining | • Sharing |
| • Helping someone | • Rolling my eyes |

3. My Thankful Prayer

Write a short prayer to Jesus.

“Dear Jesus, thank You for...” _____

4. My Gratitude Action

Choose one way you will show gratitude today. Write or draw it in the box.



5. Scripture Copywork

Copy or trace this verse:

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.” — Psalm 107:1

6. My Gratitude Promise
