

## Formation in Christian Chastity Grade 1

*Dear Parents,*

*The Church states with confidence that parents are the primary educators of their children and this is most true when we speak of the religious education of your children. This responsibility to teach flows from the natural bond that exists between parent and child, and from the most basic teachings of our faith.*

*You know your child best. While many parents seek the assistance of others to impart some of the systematic elements of education in faith, in Catholic schools or in parish religious education programs, you retain the primary duty to form your children in the faith. Through you, your children will be introduced to prayer and the experience of worship. An essential part of this calling is to learn from you how to live responsibly in this world.*

*This series is intended to assist parents in the formation of their children in the virtue of chastity.*

### **Why Chastity?**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) introduces the discussion of chastity by calling it a “vocation” (CCC 2337 ff). Chastity is the virtue whereby we regulate our use of sexual activity in accord with our state in life. We want to emphasize the good elements of the Christian life that are ours as followers of Jesus Christ. Every disciple observes chastity, though the manner of how it is observed varies according to our state in life.

The married person, the priest or religious, and the young person all observe chastity, though in different ways. For example, a young person practices chastity by remaining pure in all of their relationships. A married couple observes a holy life in their exclusive commitment to each other. Priests and religious dedicate themselves exclusively to God. We want our children to grow up with a proper, healthy and holy understanding of themselves and their gift of human sexuality.

### **How will this program work?**

This program is based on the premise that *parents know their children*. As a parent, you have a good sense of your child’s personal development and can best judge when he/she is ready for specific lessons or information. It is very important to protect the natural innocence of young children; therefore, parents will be the teachers during the first four grades.

To support you in this effort, each year we will provide a series of ideas and basic concepts of the chaste life. We also provide some technology tips to help you begin to brainstorm ways to encourage healthy use of modern technology without compromising the virtue of chastity and the innocence of your child. Our hope is that you will review these points with your children as you see fit and lay the foundation for a holy family life for your child’s future. In later grades (5 to 8), we will assist parents with some classroom activity to support what is being taught at home.

## What can parents teach to First Graders?

*THEME = CREATION.* Begin with basic concepts then discuss the creation of the human person, why we were created, and finally the family of Jesus. An outline of teaching points follows, and concludes with some ideas of how you might present these concepts.

### *God made all things good.*

- God is our Creator and He made everything good.
- God made the world.
- God made all the animals.
- God made human beings in His image and likeness.
- As human beings, we can know things and we can freely choose based on what we know.
- God made us with a body, which we can see, and with a soul, which we cannot see.
- God made each of us to be His child and to be happy with Him forever in a love that never ends.
- We should love each other as Jesus loves us.
- God made every person as either a man or a woman.
- God's plan is that everyone has a mother and a father.
- God calls all men to be spiritual fathers and many to be physical fathers, too.
- God calls all women to be spiritual mothers and many to be physical mothers.
- There are four vocations (main states of life to which God calls people). They are: single, married, priesthood, and religious life.
- Jesus was born into a human family with Mary as His mother and St. Joseph as His foster-father and guardian.
- God the Father is Jesus' Father in heaven whom he loves, and He is our Father.
- Jesus loves His mother, Mary, and His foster-father, St. Joseph, and He wants us to love them, too.

### *Teaching Examples*

1. As for the first several concepts of creation, perhaps a walk with your child outside to look at the world and speak to them of how God is the creator; how beautiful and complex this creation is.
2. Human persons are made of body and soul, and are created either male or female. We are also created for a reason, to know, love and serve God on earth and to be happy with him forever in heaven. Explain how vocation (calling) is our way of responding to what God asks us to do in life (how we will serve him). Speak of your own vocation as a parent.
3. Tell the story of Jesus' birth. Talk about Mary, Joseph, and how Jesus is special with His Father in heaven. Perhaps the children could draw a picture of Jesus' birth, surrounded by Mary, Joseph, and the stable animals.

#### **TECHNOLOGY TIPS**

- Closely monitor computer use by your children.
- Computers used by children should be in a common area of the house.
- Purchase a good web filter to keep out unwanted and harmful materials (i.e. SafeEyes, BeSecure, Barracuda, etc.).
- Children should not be using "chat" rooms.
- Use of social networking and media sites for viewing, and especially for creating a user profile, should not be allowed (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube, etc.).
- Children should protect their privacy and modesty on the computer just as in other public settings like restrooms.

### ***Theology of God***

Since we find our true identity and purpose in God, it is important that we know certain essential information about God. This information is intended to help in this regard.

- There is one God.
- There are three persons in one God.
- Each of these persons is fully God (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit).
- The one God is a communion of persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God the Father loves the Son from all eternity.
- God the Son returns the love of the Father from all eternity.
- The love between the Father and the Son are so powerful that from all eternity a Third Person, the Holy Spirit has proceeded from the Father and the Son.
- God is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present.
- God is perfect.
- Nobody made God. God always was, is now, and always will be.
- God cannot be limited by time and space. God came before time and space and He made time and space.
- When nothing else was, God was.
- God made all things and He made them good.
- God made man and woman and He made them very good.
- Men and women (and boys and girls) are the greatest of all of God's creatures on earth. We are made in His image. This means that we are to love God and each other because God is love and He loves us.
- Because we are made in God's image, He gives human beings the ability to reason and we are given free will so that we can freely choose based on our reason.
- God shows us and tells us in different ways what is good and what is evil. He gives us His grace because He wants us to choose good and be happy with Him forever.

### ***Prayers***

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom His love entrusts me here; ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.