

## Formation in Christian Chastity Grade 2

*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 Second Graders?**

*THEME = HUMAN PERSON AS A CHILD OF GOD.* Begin with basic concepts, then discuss the gift of the Lord in the sacramental life and how we revere these gifts of God by caring for the body we have been given. An outline of teaching points follows, and concludes with some ideas of how you might present these concepts.

### ***God made us in His image.***

- 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 gave us this gift of free will to choose what is good.
- When we choose to disobey God's will, then we sin.
- Going to Mass every week and receiving Holy Communion gives us the grace to do God's will. It is only in doing God's will that we can be truly happy.
- If you go to Confession often, (once a month would be a good goal), you will find that it gradually becomes easier to choose what is good, because of the grace that God gives you in this sacrament.
- Grace is a special gift that God gives people to share in His life and love.
- Grace helps us to do what God wants us to do.
- Because God made us in His image, we are good.
- Because God made our bodies, we should take good care of them (e.g. wash our hands before we eat, comb our hair, brush our teeth, etc.).
- We are to share God's goodness with others.
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit love each other.
- Because we are made in God's image, He wants us to love Him and to love others, too.
- God loves us so much that He became one of us.
- When God the Son became man, He was still God. Jesus is true God and true man.
- Mary is the mother of Jesus.
- Jesus loved and obeyed St. Joseph, His foster-father, and Mary, His mother. We should love them, too.
- Jesus gave us Mary to be our spiritual mother. Our Blessed Mother leads us to Jesus and she helps us to love and obey Him.

### ***Teaching Examples***

1. The parent explains to the child that we are created in the image of God and are to live as a child of God. Illustrate this idea by using a mirror or compact and have the child see how clear their image is. Then sprinkle some powder over the mirror. Have the child look at the mirror again, noting how the powder clouds their image. The powder, clouding the person's image is like sin. By wiping the powder away, we also see the operation of the Sacrament of Penance, cleansing us of our sins, and restoring the beauty that was present before sin.
2. Talk about and create a good hygiene plan. It is important to keep oneself healthy, as our body is a gift from God. Create a healthy food list for shopping and pick out at least one item from the list and have the child help in the preparation of this healthy food for dinner.
3. Speak of a mother's love for her child, and tell him or her of Mary and her love for the child Jesus. Pray together the Hail Mary.

### ***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.

### **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.