

Characteristics of the Third Grader

Eight years old

Qualities

Self-motivated and inquisitive
Need for others to be aware of them
Sense of self is becoming clearer
Sense of time and space is developing
Increased ability to talk to other persons
The age of “I” and “You”
Strong symbolic thinking and acting

At this level of development there is great need for teacher witness. It is very important to be consistent with what behavior is approved and disapproved. The child must be in a loving environment.

It is necessary to seize every occasion to develop in the eight year old an awareness of other’s needs and to awaken a love of service and self-giving.

The child frees her/himself from subjectivity at this level and the choices she/he now makes urge her/him to actions. Her/his love of God, far from being one of asking, becomes one of offering.

SPECIAL NOTE

Safe Environment Children’s Program

The Safe Environment Children’s Program was introduced in the Catholic Schools in the spring of 2003. There program consists of three lessons which are taught over a period of three years and then repeated.

The program was introduced in the parish Religious Education programs in the fall of 2008. Each parish is required to present one lesson to the children (grades K – 10) in the parish program each year. It is preferable that the lesson be taught in the fall of the catechetical/school year.

Following the lesson, a record of training must be sent to Kathleen Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

All materials needed for teaching the lessons in the *Safe Environment Children’s Program* in the parish and school are found in the *Safe Environment* binder in the parish/school office.

CATECHESIS

1. Creation
 - a. God created everything that exists and He shares His being, wisdom and goodness with His creatures. (CCC 279, 295; Genesis 1:1)
 - b. God allows us the ability to fully participate in His creation by giving us special talents and gifts. (CCC 306-308; 1 Cor 3-9)
 - c. We are called at Baptism by God to be of service. We receive grace from God to help us participate in the mission and service of Christ. (CCC 1268-1270, 1279, 1996)

2. Mystery of God, The Trinity
 - a. The Trinity is one God in three persons. They do not share divinity among themselves, but each is God whole and entire. (CCC 253)

3. Christ is God and is Risen and Glorious
 - a. Jesus came to do the will of God who sent Him. (CCC 606)
 - b. He offered Himself to God at the Last Supper and at Calvary. (CCC 610, 621)
 - c. We can offer ourselves to God by suffering and taking up our cross. (CCC 618)
 - d. Jesus rose from the dead and entered heaven so we might join Him one day and share in eternal life. Having entered heaven once and for all, He intercedes for us as a mediator, assuring us of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 666, 667)

4. The Church is the People of God
 - a. The Apostles were the foundation on which the Church was established. Jesus is the head of the Church. (CCC 857, 860; Matthew 28:20)
 - b. God wants us to be holy and realize that we are part of a community of people who are called to serve Him. That community is called the Church. The Church is the People of God. (CCC 781, 786)

5. Church as a Sign that Leads Us to the Heavenly Father
 - a. The Church is a liturgical assembly, and it is a community of believers. (CCC 752)
 - b. The Church is a sacrament. (CCC 775)
 - c. The Church is God's instrument for salvation. (CCC 776, 780)

6. Mary
 - a. Mary cooperated freely and faithfully in human salvation by accepting the call of God to become Jesus' mother. Mary's life should be a role model for all of us by her obedience to God. (CCC 511)
 - b. Mary is the perfect disciple which we should model our lives after and she was conceived without sin. (CCC 511)

Grade Three -- Words to be Taught

Baptism
Church
Eucharist
Reconciliation
Grace
The Law of Love

Salvation
Sin (Original, Actual, Mortal, Venial)
The Ten Commandments
Trinity