

CHALK TALK

31 = 7
FOR TODAY'S CLASSROOM

$$Y + 2\frac{1}{15} = ?$$
$$Y = 7$$
$$x + 21^3 =$$



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION BULLETIN

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HAIL VIRGIN, DEAREST MARY, QUEEN OF MAY

Traditionally in the Church, May is considered the Month of Mary. In our churches and in our schools we honor Mary in many ways during the month of May. We are reminded of the importance of praying the Rosary. We celebrate two Marian liturgical celebrations in May. When Ascension falls in May, the Saturday after the Ascension of Our Lord is traditionally celebrated as the **Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles**. The liturgy commemorates the period of time after the Ascension when the apostles were gathered in prayer with Mary and the women in the Upper Room. On May 31, in the United States, we celebrate the **Commemoration of the Visitation**. When Mary heard that her elderly relative, Elizabeth, was expecting a child, she hurried to help her. Mary's service brought Christ to the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth. And finally, in many of our schools we celebrate a "May Crowning."

During the month of May we will also be singing some of the more traditional Marian hymns. A favorite for a school May Crowning is the following.

BRING FLOWERS OF THE RAREST

Refrain.

O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today!
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.
O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

Bring flowers of the rarest
bring blossoms the fairest,
from garden and woodland and hillside and dale;
our full hearts are swelling,
our glad voices telling
the praise of the loveliest flower of the vale!

Refrain

Sing gaily in chorus;
the bright angels o'er us
re-echo the strains we begin upon earth;
their harps are repeating
the notes of our greeting,
for Mary herself is the cause of our mirth.



MARY, QUEEN OF MAY, PRAY FOR US!

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POPE JOHN PAUL II

BEATIFICATION ~ MAY 1, 2011

On May 1, 2011 Pope Benedict XVI will beatify his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. This will be a day of great rejoicing for Catholics around the world.

The beatification of Pope John Paul II comes just six years after his death on April 2, 2005. How fitting that the day chosen for the beatification is the feast of Divine Mercy. Pope John Paul II “had a deep devotion to his fellow Pole Sr. Faustina Kowalska and to the Divine Mercy devotion identified with her. In August 2002, in Lagiewniki, Poland where Sr. Faustina lived and died, John Paul II entrusted the entire world ‘to Divine Mercy, to the unlimited trust in God the Merciful.’” (www.catholic.org/saints/story.php?id=39973)



The Decree for his Beatification states: “Since the beginning of his pontificate, in 1978, John Paul II often spoke in his homilies of the mercy of God. This became the theme of his second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia*, in 1980. He was aware that modern culture and its language do not have a place for mercy, treating it as something strange; they try to inscribe everything in the categories of justice and law. But this does not suffice, for it is not what the reality of God is about. Later on, the Pope took some steps to finalize the process of Beatification of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, and the canonization (2000). The whole ecclesial community was brought to feel the closeness of the person so intimately linked to the message of Mercy; this facilitated the development of the topic for John Paul II, showing the reality of Divine Mercy in the many contexts around the world, in various continents, of humanity today.”



“Finally, in August 2002, in Lagiewniki, where Sr. Faustina lived and died, John Paul II entrusted the world to Divine Mercy, to the unlimited trust in God the Merciful, to the One who has been a source of inspiration, but also of strength for his service as Successor of Peter. It is the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Spirit of Truth, who leads us on the

ways of Divine Mercy.” (<http://cmnewengland.org/2011/01/text-of-the-decree-for-the-beatification-of-pope-john-paul-ii/>)

Writing about the beatification of John Paul II, in an article appearing in *Catholic Online*, Deacon Keith Fournier states that “there is no doubt that we had a saint in our midst. A man so filled with Jesus Christ that, like the Apostle Paul, he no longer lived but ‘Christ lived in him.’ (Galatians 2) The sentiment of the faithful expressed on the day on which his body was processed through the streets of Rome, ‘Santo Subito’ has echoed as the Church has discerned the cause of his canonization.”

“Now,” Deacon Fournier continues, “he will be raised to the Altar on the Feast of Divine Mercy and the faithful will call him **Blessed John Paul II**. There is little doubt that soon, we will also affirm what the miracles effected by his intercession confirm, John Paul II is a Saint.”

MIRACLES BRING ABOUT BEATIFICATION

In the National Catholic Reporter (<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/vatican-announces-may-1-beatification-john-paul-ii>), John L. Allen, Jr states that “beatification entitles a candidate to be referred to as “blessed” but not yet a saint. Traditionally, prayer and devotion to a “blessed” were encouraged only in that person’s local church, but John Paul II’s global appeal means that his beatification will have echoes well beyond his native Poland or the city of Rome.”

“In the sainthood process,” Allen continues, “one miracle is required for beatification and another for canonization....Most of the miracles in sainthood causes are healings, and the Vatican has historically applied three standards to ascertain if a healing qualifies. It must be “complete,” meaning it’s not enough if the person merely feels better or shows some improvement; “instantaneous,” as opposed to a recovery that unfolds over weeks, months, or longer; and it must be “durable,” meaning that the condition does not return. In addition, the healing must be medically and scientifically inexplicable.”

“The miracle approved by Benedict XVI concerns a 49-year-old French nun, Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Parkinson’s disease in 2001 and whose order prayed to John Paul II after his death in 2005 for help. Reportedly, after writing the late pope’s name on a piece of paper one night in June 2005, Sister Marie-Simone awoke the next morning cured and was able to resume her work as a maternity nurse. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints unanimously agreed that the sudden recovery of Sister Marie Simon-Pierre from Parkinson’s disease after she prayed to John Paul II was miraculous.” (<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/vatican-announces-may-1-beatification-john-paul-ii>)

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints said Vatican-appointed doctors had “scrupulously” studied the case and determined that her cure had no scientific explanation.

With the miracle cleared, John Paul II’s path to sainthood forges forward, but more steps and yet another miracle must be approved before he will be Saint John Paul II.



BLESSED JOHN PAUL II, PRAY FOR US!

Did You Know?

Record for Most Passengers on an Airplane



"It is not clear who was the first to fly an airplane: Richard Pearse, Gustave Whitehead or Orville Wright. Whoever it may have been, the distances of their flights were only about the length of the wingspan of a Boeing 747. They probably never imagined the amount of people an aircraft will be able to carry one day.

The most passengers ever carried on one flight was in 1991 during the Operation Solomon evacuation of Ethiopian Jews during Operation Solomon. 1086 people boarded a 747 in Addis Ababa. When they landed in Jerusalem, there were 1089 passengers. Three babies were born during the flight." (Source: <http://didyouknow.org>)

Bible Quote of the Month

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18

FEAST DAYS IN MAY & JUNE

May

Monday, 2 nd	St. Athanasius
Tuesday, 3 rd	Sts. Philip and James
Thursday, 12 th	Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras
Saturday, 14 th	St. Matthias
Wednesday, 18 th	St. John I
Friday, 20 th	St. Bernardine of Siena
Wednesday, 25 th	St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi
Thursday, 26 th	St. Philip Neri
Friday, 27 th	St. Augustine of Canterbury
Tuesday, 31 st	Visitation of Blessed Mary the Virgin

June

Wednesday, 1 st	St. Justin
Thursday, 2 nd	Sts. Marcellinus and Peter
Friday, 3 rd	Sts. Charles Lwanga & Companions
Sunday, 5 th	Ascension of the Lord
Monday, 6 th	St. Norbert
Thursday, 9 th	St. Ephrem

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY & JUNE

May

Sunday, 1 st	Mother Goose Day
Monday, 2 nd	Holocaust Remembrance Day
Tuesday, 3 rd	National Teacher Day
Thursday, 5 th	Cinco De Mayo
Sunday, 8 th	Mother's Day
Sunday, 15 th	National Chocolate Chip Day, Peace Day
Tuesday, 17 th	First Kentucky Derby, 1875
Saturday, 21 st	American Red Cross Founded, by Clara Burton in 1881
Wednesday, 25 th	National Missing Children's Day
Friday, 27 th	Golden Gate Bridge opens, 1937
Sunday, 29 th	John F. Kennedy's Birthday, 1917

June

Wednesday, 1 st	Donut Day
Saturday, 4 th	First Ford car made, 1896
Sunday, 5 th	World Environment Day
Wednesday, 8 th	Frank Lloyd Wright's Birthday, 1867
Friday, 10 th	Iced Tea Day

World's Largest Flower



The largest flower in the world, the **rafflesia arnoldi**, weighs 7 kg (15 pounds) and grows only on the Sumatra and Borneo islands of Indonesia. Its petals grow to 1.6 ft (1 metre) long and 1 inch (2.5 cm) thick.

There are 16 species of rafflesia, found in Sumatra, Malaysia, Philippines and Borneo. The species is named after the naturalist **Sir Stamford Raffles**, who founded the British colony of Singapore in 1819. Raffles discovered the **parasitic plant** with his friend **Dr. Joseph Arnold** during their travels in May 1818. The rafflesia arnoldi is named after the two.

However fascinating and beautiful the rafflesia arnoldi may be, it is also called "**corpse flower**" and really reeks, the latter to attract flies for pollination.

Of about **200,000 kinds of flowers in the world**, the **smallest** is the **duckweed**, which can only be seen with a microscope." (Source: <http://didyouknow.org>)

Do you know where you can find the **rafflesia arnoldi** locally?

KEEP THEM LEARNING THROUGH THE SUMMER

For children of all ages, summer is a time for fun and recreation. It is also a time when learning slides. Teachers and parents know from experience that during the summer students forget many of the skills they learned during the school year. This is particularly true with regard to reading and mathematics. Research shows that during the summer the average child forgets 60% of the math and reading skills learned during the school year. Additionally, research indicates that teachers typically spend 4-6 weeks re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.

What can we do about the “summer slide?” Teachers and parents can work together to lessen the ‘slide.’ A child’s ability to succeed in school takes a partnership - one that begins at home and continues in school. To increase learning and stop summer learning decline, children must be engaged in learning activities during the summer. This does not mean that our young people will not be engaged in fun activities during the summer. It does mean, however, that when possible parents need to make the fun activity also a learning activity.

As a partner in this endeavor, teachers are encouraged to help parents find ways that they can make summer fun activities learning activities.

There are literally hundreds of Web sites with learning activities for parents and their children to engage in during the summer. If you conduct a Web search for “summer learning activities” you will have more resources than you could possibly use.

I would encourage you to do your research and then compile the best of what you find into a “**Summer Learning Activities**” booklet for the parents of your students.

A few of the sites you may wish to begin with are the following:

- Apples 4 Teachers at: www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/summer/
- Summer Learning Activities at: http://clow.ipspd.org/schoolbag_parents_summer.html
- Family FUNdamentals Pre K-3 Learning Activities at: www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140--69358--,00.html
- Family FUNdamentals for Summer Learning ~ Activities for moving from Kindergarten to Grade 1 at: www.michigan.gov/documents/Kindergarten_Literacy_Activities_66523_7.pdf
- Resources for Parents at Internet4Classrooms at: www.internet4classrooms.com/parents.htm
- Time For Learning at: www.time4learning.com/. (There is a small registration fee to use this site.)
- Fun Summer Activities for Kids at: www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/summer/



- Elementary Summer Writing Activities at: www.ehow.com/list_6021736_elementary-summer-writing-activities.html
- Stanch your kid’s summer learning loss article at: <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/8146912/ns/today-parenting/>
- Get Ready to Read at: www.getreadytoread.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=121&Itemid=375
- Summer Learning Loss and Ideas to prevent it found at: www.afterschoolclubideas.com/summer-learning-loss-and-ideas-to-prevent-it/
- Summer Learning ~ a list of ideas for the various content areas at: <http://school.familyeducation.com/summer/family-learning/36089.html>
- Great Educational Activities at: www.kidsource.com/education/summer.activities.art.html
- High School Summer Activities at: www.education.com/activity/high-school/
- Summer Learning for High School Students at: www.brighthub.com/education/homework-tips/articles/77770.aspx

Making summer a time for learning is important. The brain needs to be active in order to retain what it has learned. Encouraging parents to engage their children in learning will make your job a little easier come next school year. Research the many Web sites on summer learning activities and develop a packet of information for the parents of your students. Help them help their children!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Strategy of the Month

KNOWLEDGE SQUARES

This month we look at the strategy, *Knowledge Squares*. In this strategy, students use a graphic organizer that prompts them to write:

- 3 Facts I Know,
- 3 Questions I Want Answered, and
- Answers to My Questions.

The following is a sample Knowledge Squares strategy. In this instance, students are reading about the Wright Brothers.

Directions: In the top square on the left, record three facts you know about the Wright Brothers and their work. In the top square on the right, write down three questions about the Wright Brothers' aeronautical work that you would like to have answered by the time you've completed reading the book, *Countdown to Flight!* As you read through the novel, complete your Knowledge Squares by answering each question in the lower square."

Possible responses to this sample might be the following:

3 Facts I Know

1. The brothers used their mechanical knowledge and experience to design aircraft.
2. The brothers flew kites to help them understand how to control the aircraft during flight.
3. The brothers understood the basic forces of flight: lift, drag, thrust, weight."

3 Questions I Want Answered

1. What kind of experiments did they do to test their ideas?
2. Why did they pick Kitty Hawk as the place to fly?
3. What kind of problems did they have to solve before they could start designing and flying their aircraft?"

3 Facts I Know

3 Questions I Want Answered

Answers to My Questions

Answers to My Questions

1. They constructed their own wind tunnel to test airfoil shapes and record their data. They tested their designs as large kites before they made gliders.
2. They picked Kitty Hawk for three reasons: strong and steady winds; privacy (not a well settled or public place); a soft place to land (sand and/or water).
3. What kind of camber should the wings have to generate the greatest amounts of lift; what kind of control surfaces were needed to control it in the air; what kind of engine (power, shape, size) would be best to power the aircraft."

(Source: <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/aero/wright/teachers/wfomanual/langarts/countdown/sheet4.html>)

In the literature, you will find this strategy referred to as **Circles of Knowledge**. I have adapted it here and given it the name **Knowledge Squares**. Why do this? A very simple answer. Students will find it easier to write the information in a square rather than in a circle. So, whether you call them Circles of Knowledge or Knowledge Squares it works the same way.

The real question is: How will you use this strategy? Why not put a new twist on a book report...or on the reading of a chapter from a textbook...or..... Try doing something a little different to keep your students learning during these last weeks of school.

Need Assistance? Have Questions or Concerns?

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