



EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS & NOTES

Office of Catholic Education

Fall, 2010

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY



The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

The feast was introduced by Pope St. Pius V (1504-1572) in the year 1571 to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The pope attributed more to the “arms” of the Rosary than the power of cannons and the valor of the soldiers who fought there.

Legend tells us that the Rosary as a form of prayer was given to St. Dominic (1170- 1221) by Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, who entrusted it to him as an aid in the conflicts with the Albigensians. The Dominican pope, St. Pius V, did much to further the spread of the Rosary and it thereafter became one of the most popular devotions in Christendom. It was the same Pope St. Pius V, who in 1569 officially approved the Rosary in its present form with the Papal Bull, *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices*. (Source: <http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/Fcc.html>)

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.*

RELIGION

The Basics of What We Teach

“We should make sure that the religion we teach our children represents a happy and love-filled way of looking at things. We must drench their minds with the fact that they are uniquely created by God.” (*Through the Eyes of Faith* by John Powell, SJ)



HOW YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN

The following excerpt from an article by Dr. Bredekamp describes how young children learn and indicates effective ways of teaching them. She states:

“Young children learn by doing. The work of Piaget (1950, 1972), Montessori (1964), Erikson (1950), and other child development theorists and researchers (Elkind, 1986; Kamii, 1985) has demonstrated that learning is a complex process that results from the interaction of children's own thinking and their experiences in the external world. Maturation is an important contributor to learning because it provides a framework from which children's learning proceeds. As children get older, they acquire new skills and experiences that facilitate the learning process. For example, as children grow physically, they are more able to manipulate and explore their own environment. Also, as children mature, they are more able to understand the point of view of other people.”

“Knowledge is not something that is given to children as though they were empty vessels to be filled. Children acquire knowledge about the physical and social worlds in which they live through playful interaction with objects and people. Children do not need to be forced to learn; they are motivated by their own desire to make sense of their world.”

What a powerful thought – “children do not need to be forced to learn; they are motivated by their own desire to make sense of their world.” How do we take advantage of this desire to learn? Do we prepare an environment that is stimulating and provides challenging materials and activities for children? Do we closely observe the children to see what they understand and pose additional challenges to push their thinking further?

Dr. Bredekamp states that “for children to understand fully and remember what they have learned – whether it is related to reading, mathematics, or other subject matter areas – the information must be meaningful to the child in context of the child's experience and development. Learning information in meaningful context is not only essential for children's understanding and development of concepts, but is also important for stimulating motivation in children. If learning is relevant for children, they are more likely to persist with a task and to be motivated to learn more.”

Dr. Sue Bredekamp is the famous author of “Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs” (1997). To learn more about her go to: www.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=552 or to amazon.com to find her book.

SPECIAL DAYS TO CELEBRATE

October 5 – Do Something Nice Day
 October 7 – World Smile Day
 October 11 – Columbus Day
 October 21 – Count Your Buttons Day
 October 24 – National Bologna Day
 October 30 – National Candy Corn Day
 October 31 – Halloween

November 2 – Deviled Egg Day
 November 3 – Sandwich Day
 November 9 – Young Reader's Day
 November 11 – Veteran's Day
 November 13 – World Kindness Day
 November 16 – Button Day
 November 17 – World Peace Day
 November 25 - Thanksgiving Day

December 2 – Eat-a-Red-Apple Day
 December 4 – Wear Brown Shoes Day
 December 6 – St. Nicholas Day
 December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
 December 9 – Christmas Card Day
 December 12 - Poinsettia Day
 December 13 – Ice Cream Day
 December 20 – Go Caroling Day
 December 21 – Humbug Day
 December 26 - Boxing Day

January 1 - New Year's Day

HOW DO I USE MY SPRING EPSF ASSESSMENT RESULTS TO HELP AT-RISK STUDENTS?

Special Workshop

October 12, 2010

4:00 - 6:00pm

St. Peter Elementary School
 North Rideville

Limited Enrollment: 15 Participants

Persons attending this workshop must :

1. Be a kindergarten teacher or aide.
2. Bring the assessment results from Spring testing.
3. Have children "at risk" -- 2 or more modalities in considerable need.
4. Must have the Parent Activity Cards from EPSF.

Cost: **\$15.00** (Payable to Office of Catholic Education)
 Payable the night of the workshop.

Register at: www.oce-ocs.org/oce/register

Deadline Date = October 8, 2010

FEASTS TO CELEBRATE...

October 2	Guardian Angels
October 4	St. Francis of Assisi
October 7	Our Lady of the Rosary
October 19	North American Martyrs

November 1	All Saints Day
November 2	All Souls Day
November 3	St. Martin de Porres
November 4	St. Charles Borromeo
November 15	St. Albert the Great
November 21	Feast of Christ the King
November 28	First Sunday of Advent

December 6	St. Nicholas
December 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas
December 28	Holy Innocents
December 31	The Holy Family

January 1	Mary the Mother of God New Year's Day
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YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER...

Please feel free to take the opportunity to share any newsy or informational items that you feel would be good material for our newsletter. Your input to this publication will make it very beneficial to all who read it. Please e-mail your suggestions and comments to Dr. Heintschel.

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DON'T MISS OUT! PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

October 21, 2010 – “Good Beginnings:
 A Rainbow of Strategies”
 Sister Lois Buck, OSU
 Ursuline Education Center
 8:30am – 2:30pm

March 7, 2011 – “Handwriting in an Early Childhood
 Program”
 Carol Miller and Kathleen Wright
 Sponsored by Zaner-Bloser
 St. Basil the Great Campus
 8:30am – 2:30pm

April 15, 2011 – “Beyond the Rainbow: A Day for Early
 Childhood Educators”
 Cleveland Museum of Art
 9:15am – 3:30PM

Lunch, refreshments and materials will be provided.
 Parking fee at the Museum will be covered.

Registration Deadline – TWO WEEKS prior to the date of the workshop

Register at: www.oce-ocs.org/oce/register