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PARTNERS IN FAITH

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Congratulations to our young people that made their First Communion March 29/30. The weather finally cooperated. I want to thank the parents that played such a vital role in preparing our students. With the weather being so bad this winter, we were unable to hold our special preparations meetings; but our Mom's and Dad's put forth the effort at home to get the children ready. Thanks to our teachers for the extra work they put in to getting these youngsters ready; our teachers at the Centro facility are Tracy Christopher, Stephanie Harris, Jenny Thoeny, Carla Brinkman, Judy Duncan, Emily Duncan and Len Duncan. At STM our teachers are Connie Cook and Rita Meyer. Connie Goldsmith took on the special sacraments (RCIC) kids and of course nothing would ever get done without Mary Steffen. Parents can mark their calendars for next year - First Communion will be April 18/19.

Schedule Change - It has come to our attention that on Monday, April 28th most of our Centro students will be involved in a music concert. To accommodate the many families that will be gone, we will not be having class that evening. That makes Monday April 21st our last class of the season. To mark this special occasion we will be having a special mass that evening celebrated by Fr. Marty Goetz. Father Marty is the vocation director for the Davenport Diocese. We also hope to honor Gary Rozek, the president of Centro for his support of St Thomas More these past 6 years. Religious Education will conclude at STM on April 30th as scheduled.

Text Book Selection - After many months of evaluating text for the upcoming year, we have selected the Loyola Press's Finding God series for our text book. Loyola offers a comprehensive education series for our parish that includes all aspects of a education program. In addition to a wonderful religious education experience, it provides resources for RCIA, Sacrament Preparation, Confirmation, and Adult Faith Formation. Check out www.findinggod.org/retreat for a sample of what Loyola has to offer us. We will phase in the new text over the next 3 years to lessen the financial sting for our Parish.

Last Parent Letter for the year!!! I just realized this will be my last time to speak to all you Mom's and Dad's in this manner. Please join me in a huge "THANK YOU" to our wonderful staff of teachers. You would be very hard pressed to find a more dedicated and excited bunch than these people. You made my first year at St Thomas More a very rewarding experience. The smiles and enthusiasm you have for your students was inspiring. A special thanks to our many college students that help out at STM on Wednesday teaching. You guys are the best. Also, please thank Mary Steffen when you see her. Mary is a gem that I hope will stay around for many more years!!! I could never have made it with out her help.

With one year drawing to a close—only means that it is time for me to start looking forward to next year. We are looking forward to moving into our new home at the Education Station. We are truly grateful for the many years of support our friends at Centro have given our children. We will be presenting Centro with a token of appreciation at our closing mass.

Mom and Dad Please consider assisting our program next year by being a teacher. Our new curriculum promises to make the job that much easier for our volunteer. Classes will begin the middle of September. Commissioning of teachers will be on Catechetical Sunday—September 21st. Parents of 2nd graders / or other children making their First Communion in 2009 - please consider sharing this journey with your child by being a teacher in the Religious Education program - or by assisting with the Reconciliation / First Eucharist training sessions that will begin next fall.

Registration forms will be coming home with your children in the next few weeks. Also available on the website at www.stthomasmoreic.com. During the summer months please check our web page to keep informed of events / news.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 21st - Closing mass at Centro

April 30th - Last night of class at STM site

May 11th - Mothers Day and Pentecost Sunday

September 21st - Catechetical Sunday

This multiple-choice exercise can be a fun review for you, your students, and your students' families. Circle the letter next to the word or phrase that correctly completes each statement.

1. The prayer often said at the end of the recitation of the Rosary is the

- (a) Apostles' Creed; (b) Hail, Holy Queen; (c) Act of Contrition; (d) Litany of the Saints

2. The Spanish title given to priests is

- (a) pueblo; (b) papa; (c) padre; (d) friar

3. Jesus told his disciples they could move mountains if they

- (a) healed the sick; (b) cast out demons; (c) had faith the size of a mustard seed; (d) had a lever and a fulcrum

4. Saints' feast days are usually the date of their death because

- (a) their suffering made their deaths holy; (b) those days are considered their "birthdays" into eternal life; (c) no other days in their lives were memorable; (d) none of these

5. Easter is observed on the Sunday following

- (a) St. Patrick's Day; (b) April First; (c) Mardi Gras; (d) the first full moon after the spring equinox

6. According to tradition, Paul died by being

- (a) hung; (b) beheaded; (c) drowned; (d) crucified

7. The doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven was officially defined in

- (a) 333; (b) 1066; (c) 1492; (d) 1950

8. Jesus' name for the Father was

- (a) Abba; (b) Jehovah; (c) El Shaddai; (d) Pater

9. As a sacrament in the Roman Church, matrimony

- (a) is conferred by the priest; (b) is conferred by the couple; (c) is conferred by the best man and maid of honor; (d) none of these

10. The famous saint of Lisieux, France, is

- (a) Therese Martin; (b) Katharine Drexel; (c) John of the Cross; (d) Francis Xavier

11. Babylon was in the modern-day country of

- (a) China; (b) India; (c) Iraq; (d) Egypt

12. In the Bible, tithing means giving away a portion of one's income, commonly

- (a) one percent; (b) ten percent; (c) fifty percent; (d) all that you possess

13. The prayer for the dead that begins, "Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord," continues

- (a) May they intercede for us at your heavenly throne; (b) Give them your mercy and salvation; (c) And let perpetual light shine upon them; (d) May the angels greet them

14. The number of traditional deadly sins is

- (a) three; (b) seven; (c) nine; (d) eleven

15. The man who buried Jesus in a new tomb made for himself was

- (a) Nicodemus; (b) Joseph of Arimathea; (c) Pontius Pilate; (d) Jude the Obscure

16. Sprinkling the congregation with holy water is a reminder of our

- (a) baptism; (b) confirmation; (c) First Communion; (d) mortality

17. In older church buildings the long central part extending from the entry to the altar is called the

- (a) ambo; (b) belfry; (c) credenza; (d) nave

18. If we stop by a church to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament

- (a) we must pray a Rosary; (b) we must cover our head; (c) we should pray an Our Father; (d) no set prayer is required

19. The seven traditional gifts of the Holy Spirit as given in Isaiah are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and

- (a) fear of the Lord; (b) hope; (c) efficiency; (d) cleanliness

20. The Latin words *Adoramus Te, Christe* mean

- (a) Thanks be to God; (b) Come, Holy Spirit; (c) We adore You, O Christ; (d) Glory to God in the highest

Compare your answers with the key on pages 54-55.

Ms. Zyromski is a Contributing Editor to CATECHIST. She is the author of many books, among them: What's Your Catholic IQ? 22 Faith Quizzes for All Ages; Skits from Scripture, 10 Plays from the Old Testament; and Skits from Scripture, 10 Plays from the New Testament (Pflaum Publishing Group). Page writes from Painesville, OH.

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