

GRACE IN Action

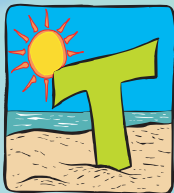
LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™



The Crosiers

NEW Parables

Put your heads and hands together



There was a little girl who was attending her first day at a new school. Her family had just moved to the United States, and her new neighborhood included people from a variety of racial backgrounds. The little girl was not used to being around so many people who looked and acted so differently from her. She missed her friends from home and felt lonely.

The first class discussion dealt with identity. For the first assignment, the teacher challenged the students to create an identity to represent their class. They were to enter their logo in a contest that would be judged at the end of the day.

The little girl secluded herself in the corner of the classroom and found a crayon and a piece of paper. By herself for a long time, she could think of nothing inspirational. Finally, she heaved a sigh of frustration, and drew a simple star in the center of her paper. Unsatisfied, she handed in her paper to the teacher and went back to sit at her desk.

Meanwhile, in the same classroom, there was another new student, a little boy. This little boy's family had also just moved to the United States from a country that had not been as diverse. He welcomed the opportunity to meet new people and approached four other kids in the class to collaborate on the project.

They gladly agreed. After sharing their ideas and discussing them, they finally narrowed down their decision. They asked the teacher if they could use the classroom camera, and they took a photograph of their hands. They turned in their assignment just before the contest deadline.

At the end of the day, their idea was chosen as the image for the class identity. The little boy and his new friends cheered and congratulated one another. They put their hands together in high-fives and exchanged smiles of friendship.



James Baca photo

August

CELEBRATE

- 6 Transfiguration of the Lord
- 8 St. Dominic
- 11 St. Clare
- 15 Assumption
- 22 Queenship of Mary

FAITH Fact

Dog days of summer slowing you down?



Warm weather and the leisurely pace of summer is an ideal opportunity to meditate. Although often associated with Eastern religions, this form of prayer holds value for Catholics, as well. "Christians owe it to themselves to develop the desire to meditate regularly," the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches. "Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ" (nos. 2707-2708).

Various forms of meditation are approved and taught by the Church. Check with your parish or a Catholic bookstore for more information.

CORNERSTONE

"We must not fail to serve our neighbors because in them we serve Jesus."

— St. Rose of Lima
Feast day August 23

MODERN Disciple A joyful spirit

Angela Kerry is widely regarded as something of an angel at St. Ann Parish in Gulf Breeze, Fla. Kerry began volunteering as a religious education teacher 46 years ago and has served for the last 15 years as religious education director at Our Lady of the Assumption Mission Church in Pensacola Beach.

She is a sacristan, a Prayer Chain Minister, a longtime president of the Legion of Mary and an extraordinary minister of holy Communion. She brings Communion to residents of two nursing homes, where she has made many friends by going the extra mile, such as addressing residents' greeting cards, or treating them to pizza or sugarless candy. And the parish thinks



Angela Kerry; Sister Margaret Charles Kerry, the Kerrys' daughter; and Joe Kerry.

of her as "the permanent substitute for all volunteers."

Angela does it all with a spirit of joy and humility: "I meet so many beautiful people out there," she said. "I guess that's what community is all about."

Her husband, Joe, said: "God made her for what's she's doing, and she's doing it. I kid her that I'm a Church widower."

The Kerrys, who met at a Legion of Mary picnic, cele-

brated their 50th wedding anniversary in May. They have six children — their oldest daughter is a Sister of St. Paul — and 10 grandchildren.

Angela attends daily Mass and starts each day praying the Morning Offering and the Rosary. "It's the most important thing," she said. "I get up and say my prayers. Our Lady blesses us and listens to us when we pray the Rosary. She leads us to Jesus. God is so good!"

TRY This Chill with a child



ids: They grow up so fast. And they grow so bored at some point during summer vacation. The best thing you can give a child is time. Savor summer with a child, and you will reap the simple rewards of the season, too. Try these activities from "The Big Book of Catholic Customs and Traditions for Children's Faith Formation" (Our Sunday Visitor).

- Encourage gratitude and spontaneous prayer while having a ball. One person begins the prayer, which might go like this. "Thank you, God, for the beautiful sunshine and my wonderful friends." The person then tosses or rolls the ball to another person, who then offers his own prayer of thanksgiving, such as, "Thank you, God, for my baby brother," and so forth.

- Together, try to find shapes in cloud formations. Take turns describing a shape in the sky and invite others to find the shape before it changes. Point out that God gives us both beautiful clouds and our imaginations. Then, using cotton balls, glue cloud shapes on blue construction paper.

SOWING Seeds

Mary modeled stewardship

"She was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity" (see Lk 1:26-56).

— *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*
U.S. Catholic bishops' stewardship pastoral



We're familiar with the month of May as Mary's month, and with October as the month of the Rosary, but August, too, includes joyous red-letter days associated with the Mother of God: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Aug. 15) and the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Aug. 22). Like every mortal, Mary suffered during her life on earth. We traditionally recall the Seven Sorrows of Mary, but, of course, she knew many more.

When we celebrate Mary's assumption and her coronation, we anticipate God's just reward in His heavenly kingdom. But, while still here on earth, like Mary, we're called to respond with generosity, creativity and prudence, service and fidelity.

How do you serve your family? Your parish? How might you be more generous? More prudent? More creative?

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