



Sacred Story Institute

Ignatian Spirituality for Third Millennium Evangelization

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Dear First Grader Parent/Guardian:

Sacred Story Institute (SSI) developed a new Ignatian Pre-K to grade 8 conscience formation program called Sacred Story Youth (SSY). SSY took two and a half years to develop and was tested with hundreds of students and teachers across six dioceses in the United States. The program is designed to use a three to five minute space after recess each day to teach the Ignatian “examination of conscience” in a new rendition called Sacred Story Prayer.

The program’s main teaching tool is recorded guided meditations that are age appropriate for each of the Pre-K to 8 grades. The three-eight minute guided meditations are designed to be used to quiet the mind and guide students learn how to hear the voice of God in their hearts.

This is a yearlong meditative experience to help children build sensitivity and awareness of God’s presence in their lives, to allow God to shape one’s *Sacred Story* according to his will and graces. St Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) used the examination of conscience every day and teaches us that spiritual conversion is not a single event but a life-long process.

The first graders focus on The Sacred Story meditation theme of PRESENCE: ***Father I believe You are present in every moment and event of my life*** linked with the 1st Commandment (I Am The Lord Your God-You Shall Have No Strange Gods Before Me) with a reflection: ***I believe God loved me into life and I commit to the relationship by giving all my mind, heart and strength to God alone and will serve no other god.***

There are two storylines to this relational paradigm. The first: To be faithful to God and to make room for God in my heart. The second: to be unfaithful to God by displacing God from my heart and allowing my faith to be put in things/idols, like the people of Israel did in the story of the golden calf. Student meditation is focused on this relational paradigm.

Sacred Story Youth uses a “relational paradigm” for understanding creation, the fall and redemption. Sacred Story’s relational paradigm provides a new and intuitive way to understand the most complex and important dimension to the Story of the cosmos and human life. Pope Francis called the Creation a “love story” that to our day is still being written.

We invite you to visit <http://sacredstory.net> to see our work and hear a sample meditation for the children: <http://sacredstory.net/jubilee-of-mercy/sacred-story-youth-jubilee/> You can also explore the adult opportunities for yourself: <http://sacredstory.net/jubilee-of-mercy/forty-weeks-jubilee/> If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bill Watson, S.J.
President/Founder

