



Sacred Story Institute

Ignatian Spirituality for Third Millennium Evangelization

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Dear Fourth 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 fourth graders focus on The Sacred Story meditation theme of ETERNITY: ***Father I believe You can give me eternal love because by Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection you make this Eternal Kingdom possible*** linked with the 7th Commandment (You Shall Not Steal) and the 10th Commandment (You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbor’s Goods) with the reflection: ***I believe God loved me into life and so I commit myself never to break relationship with anyone by taking from them what does not belong to me or even desire to do so!***

There are two storylines to this relational paradigm: I can choose to be "free" before all things God has made and only use things in a way that brings me closer to God others, and my true self [these are choices for "Eternity"], or I can choose to be covetous of things God has made and use things in a way that separates me from God, others and my true self [these are choices that do not last].

Sacred Story Youth will use 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

