



# Sacred Story Institute

Ignatian Spirituality for Third Millennium Evangelization

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Dear Second 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.

The second graders focus on The Sacred Story meditation theme of MEMORY: ***Father I believe Jesus helps me remember everything that I have done or that has been done to me that has hurt my life of faith, hope and love*** linked with the 3rd Commandment (Remember To Keep Holy The Sabbath Day) with a reflection: ***I believe God loved me into life and I commit myself to the relationship by always dedicating the Sabbath Day as one of praising, reverencing and serving God.***

There are two storylines to this relational paradigm: I can choose to worship and praise God or I can choose to worship and praise myself. I have a choice about which story line I will follow.

As a child of God I am called to keep my relationship with Him at the center of my life by dedicating a special time to be with God. ***The Sabbath creates a space for right relationship to flourish, time to be reminded of the most essential***

***relationships with God and family – time to “be” rather than “act.” If I prioritize my own activities over “being with” the One who sustains all things, I have violated the First Commandment and no relationship can flourish.***

I can do this by attending Mass or Sunday Services and remembering to pray. I will sing praises to God and join in the Mass or Sunday Service prayers attentively, behaving respectfully in Church. I will pay more attention to family and other friends on Sunday. I will partake in my church community when I am able.

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.

This is a 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.

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*

