



Sacred Story Institute

Ignatian Spirituality for Third Millennium Evangelization

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Dear Fifth 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 fifth graders will focus on The Sacred Story meditation themes of CREATION and PRESENCE linked with the 2nd Commandment (You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God In Vain) with the reflection: ***I believe God loved me into life and I commit myself to the relationship by always adoring and reverencing the name of God!***

There are two storylines to this relational paradigm: I can choose to nurture a spirit of gratitude for the holiness of God, and God's gifts of other persons and

creation in my thoughts, words and deeds and develop a daily personal relationship with the God who draws close to me. OR I can choose to nurture a spirit of ingratitude for the holiness of God, and God's gifts of other persons and creation in my thoughts, words and deeds and develop a daily personal relationship with the God who draws close to me. The spirit I nurture will shape my personal story and others who are influenced by my story emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. I can "see" the spirit I nurture by how I prioritize my friendship with God and others (attendance at Church, not swearing, integrity, gratitude, and friendships).

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 youth: <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

