



Sacred Story Institute

Ignatian Spirituality for Third Millennium Evangelization

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Dear Sixth 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 sixth graders focus on The Sacred Story meditation themes of CREATION, PRESENCE & MEMORY linked with the 5th Commandment (You Shall Not Kill) with a reflection: ***I believe God loved me into life and so I commit myself to a relationship with all those made in God’s image and likeness by vowing to do nothing to hurt anyone.***

There are two storylines to this relational paradigm: I can choose to protect all human life from conception till natural death by what I say, think and do. Or I can

choose to allow harm to befall human life from conception till natural death by what I say, think and do. Protect/honor human life also applies to Respect Life for the most vulnerable: how do I treat the very young (siblings, maybe burdensome to me?) the very old (annoying grandparents?) the mentally/physically ill (mocking others with needs?)

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

