

Family Conversations

STORE THIS CARD IN YOUR AUTOMOBILE GLOVE BOX OR CLIP IT TO YOUR VISOR. SHORT ON TIME IN THE CAR? KEEP THIS CARD IN YOUR DINING ROOM FOR A TABLE CONVERSATION INSTEAD.

KEY TO THE CONVERSATIONS



TAKE 30 (SECONDS): A pause to think or pray in silence.



CHAT: A time for each person to share.




PRAY: A suggested moment for prayer.




KEY IDEA: An insight about the Scripture.




CATECHISM CLIP: A quote from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

ON THE RETURN  CHAT: What was Jesus' mission? What is one thing we can do this week that will help us be like Jesus?


ON THE WAY  **CATECHISM CLIP:** "The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming, when he will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body." But it also recalls that "it is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God." (CCC 556)

PRAY: (All repeat after the leader) Speak, Lord, we are listening. Help us to know you and to love you. Show us the way and lead us to others who need you! Amen.

ON THE WAY  CHAT: What things would you expect to see on the top of a mountain?

KEY IDEA: On the mountaintop, Jesus' closest friends learn he is very special and has an important mission that they will participate in.

Gospel Glimpse from Luke 9:34-35
While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

ON THE WAY  **CATECHISM CLIP:** "The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming, when he will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body." But it also recalls that "it is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God." (CCC 556)


PRAY: (All repeat after the leader) Speak, Lord, we are listening. Help us to know you and to love you. Show us the way and lead us to others who need you! Amen.


SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
 MARCH 4, 2007

Listen to Him


FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
 FEBRUARY 25, 2007

Faithful

ON THE RETURN  CHAT: What can we do as a family this Lent to make the experience more meaningful to us?

ON THE WAY  **CATECHISM CLIP:** "By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert." (CCC 540)

PRAY: Father, even when he was tired and hungry, your Son remained faithful to you. Grant us the strength to be faithful in the same way. We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit as one God, forever and ever. Amen!

ON THE WAY  **Gospel Glimpse** from Luke 4:2-4
He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

KEY IDEA: Following his baptism by John, Jesus goes into the desert for forty days where he is tempted. Despite the devil's temptations, Jesus remained faithful to God. Today we begin forty Lenten days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to help us draw closer to God.

CHAT: During Lent we imitate Jesus' forty days in the desert of fasting and prayer. What are things that we can each do during Lent to imitate Jesus?

LENT TO EASTER 2007—YEAR C

INTRODUCTION

In their recently published *National Directory for Catechesis*, the bishops of the United States make this comment: "Parents are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children" (p. 234). One way that you can influence your children is by spending some time with them each week talking about the Sunday readings. This resource will help you hold these conversations.

Use the following reflections to start a conversation. You may find that something in the readings or in the homily triggers different questions. Follow the conversation wherever it leads.

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 11, 2007

Turn to the Lord

ON THE WAY


Scripture Glimpse from Luke 13:6-7
And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it.'"


 **KEY IDEA:** If we think that God would not be happy with the fruit of our efforts, perhaps it is time to change what we are doing.


 **CHAT:** If you were to make a New Year's resolution today to change

something about yourself, what would your resolution be?

ON THE RETURN

 **CHAT:** If Jesus were to come to you looking for the fruits of your labor, would he be satisfied with what he finds? What type of cultivating and fertilizing do you need in your life?

 **CATECHISM CLIP:**
"Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed." (CCC 1431)


 **PRAY:** Father, remind us every day of ways to better follow your commandments of love, and to turn our hearts to you. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen!


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 18, 2007

Second Chances


ON THE WAY


Scripture Glimpse from Luke 15:21-24
His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.'


 **KEY IDEA:** Today's Gospel is the story of the Prodigal Son. As you listen to it today, think about the amazing mercy of the Father in giving the wayward son a second chance.

 **CHAT:** What are things that we do that are selfish? How do these things affect our lives?

ON THE RETURN

 **CHAT:** In the Gospel reading today, how was the father's response different from what the son expected? What does this tell you about the mercy of God? Is there someone in your life who needs a second chance?

 **CATECHISM CLIP:**
"Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of his Father's love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful a way." (CCC 1439)


 **PRAY:** Father, thank you for always giving us a second chance. Help us to offer that same mercy to others. We ask this through Jesus, your Son, with the Holy Spirit, for you are one God forever and ever. Amen!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 25, 2007


The First Stone


ON THE WAY


Scripture Glimpse from John 8:7-9
He straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him.

 **TAKE 30 (SECONDS):** As you listen to this reading, place yourself in the scene. Imagine yourself as the woman, the elders, a bystander, or even Jesus. What might you be feeling?

ON THE RETURN

 **CHAT:** What did you hear in the readings or homily that told you about having judgmental attitudes toward others? Are there times when you have been judgmental like the scribes and the Pharisees?

 **CATECHISM CLIP:**
"The Father has given 'all judgment to the son.' Yet the Son did not come to judge, but to save and to give the life he has in himself." (CCC 679)


 **PRAY:** Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Thank you for your gift of mercy, Lord! Amen!


EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
APRIL 8, 2007

Living for God


ON THE WAY


Scripture Glimpse from the Easter Vigil, Romans 6:9-11
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.


 **TAKE 30 (SECONDS):** What do you think it means to be dead to sin, or living for God?

 **PRAY:** Dear Jesus, open our hearts, to live for God in you.

ON THE RETURN

 **CHAT:** Who do we know—in school, in our community, in our neighborhood—who needs hope right now? How can we bring that message of Easter hope to them?

 **CATECHISM CLIP:**
The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. (CCC 654)

 **PRAY:** Sing your favorite "Alleluia"!




PALM SUNDAY OF THE
LORD'S PASSION
APRIL 1, 2007


Hosanna


ON THE WAY


Scripture Glimpse from Luke 23: 44-46
It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.


 **CHAT:** Today we receive blessed palm branches. We also read the moving story of how Jesus died for us on the Cross. Why do we do both of these things together today? Discuss, and then listen for clues in what the crowd says in the story that accompanies the blessing of the palms.

ON THE RETURN

 **KEY IDEA:** When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people cried, "Hosanna," and honored him, but they quickly abandoned him. When Jesus died, it was the repentant thief who professed belief in Jesus!

 **CHAT:** Why do you think we were given palms this Sunday? What are ways that we can use these palms to help us remember what Jesus did for us?

 **CATECHISM CLIP:**
"Jesus, the Son of God, freely suffered death for us in complete and free submission to the will of God, his Father. By his death he has conquered death, and so opened the possibility of salvation to all men." (CCC 1019)

 **PRAY:** *Invite everyone to raise their palms and repeat the following prayer:* Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus, you are our Savior. You gave us life by dying for us. You are the Son of God! Amen.