

Internet Resources for Ministers of Children's Liturgy of the Word

compiled by Christine Way Skinner



For background to the Scriptures:

It goes without saying that anyone working in the ministry of proclaiming the Word to children should begin preparation by reading and reflecting on the Sunday readings.

You just can't beat Lector Prep as a place to start preparing for the Sunday readings - <http://www.lectorprep.org/>. It has all kinds of historical notes and information but is directed at helping you, as an adult, come to a better understanding of the readings. Doing this, will inevitably prepare you for proclaiming the Word to children.

Another site with an embarrassment of riches is The Text This Week - <http://www.textweek.com/yearc/epiphc4.htm>. Here you will find such things as fine art depicting the scripture stories and movies that deal with the themes found in the readings. The site could use a visual facelift but once you get used to it, you'll find it a marvelous resource.

Helpful Hint: One way to help the children enter into the meaning of the Gospel stories is to show them artwork that illustrates those stories. You might want to ask the children which depiction they like the best or is closest to what they imagined when they heard the scripture for the first time.

A third excellent site is: <http://www.webelieveweb.com/index.cfm>. Here you can find a very neat liturgical calendar http://www.webelieveweb.com/liturgical_year.cfm. By clicking on the date, you are directed to information about the readings of the day with ideas for reflection and discussion as well activities that could be done at home or in a classroom. You will find these reflections will easily translate into message for the children who are participating in Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Finally, for background information on the weekly readings as well as ideas for how to relate them to the lives of children, a woman named Joan Edwards has prepared a comprehensive site which includes skits, devotionals and activities which could be handed out for children to do at home. <http://www.joanedwards.com>

Helpful Hint: Dramatizing Gospel stories is a good way to proclaim them to children. It is best to proclaim the Gospel story first and then have the children use drama to help solidify the story and the message. A good selection of simple costumes as well as hand-puppets are available in the Gathering Room of the church where we celebrate Children's Liturgy of the Word.

The Liturgy Office of England and Wales publishes a newsletter called Spirit of the Seasons. It is full of great material for thinking about the specific liturgical season of the year. If you like it, you can subscribe to the newsletter:

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter/index.shtml>.

Also, Ralph Milton writes a weekly newsletter called Rumours in which he muses about the upcoming readings. He also includes some great jokes and other sorts of reflections as well as, from time to time, sending dramatic presentations of various scripture passages. You can read his blog and decide if you would like to subscribe:

http://www.woodlakebooks.com/sublevel.taf?site_uid1=17472&hallway_uid1=17567

For background information regarding Children's Liturgy of the Word:

The first place to begin would be by reading the Directory for Masses with Children <http://www.adoremus.org/DMC-73.html> to understand the churches rationale for calling children apart for the Liturgy of the Word.

If you haven't had a chance to read a really good explanation of what we are doing when we gather together to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with children, how about a visit to the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Brisbane. The wonders of the Internet! We, at St. John's can go to Australia to learn how to improve our Canadian parish! <tp://litcom.net.au/documents/childrensliturgy/index.php>

At this site, there is a also good descriptor of various techniques that can be used in proclaiming the Word to Children:

<http://litcom.net.au/documents/childrensliturgy/techniques.php>

Another good explanation of what we are doing, can be found in the Introductory Pages of Liturgy Training Publications' book Children's Liturgy of the Word -

http://www.ltp.org/ctl/10CLW_INTRO.pdf

If you find any other sites which you feel may be helpful to our team of volunteers, please let me know by sending an email to cway@neptune.on.ca and I will update this list.