LIVING FAITH

JANUARY 29, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Today's Gospel is often called "The Beatitudes." But what does that word mean? The term *beatitude* comes from the Latin noun *beātitūdō* which means "happiness" or "blessedness." These eight Beatitudes echo the highest ideals of Jesus' teachings on spirituality and compassion; in some ways, they might be seen as a summary of the entire teaching of Jesus.

What is that heart? It seems pretty obvious that Jesus has a special place in His heart for people who are poor in spirit, people who are mourning, those who are meek, those who are unjustly treated or even persecuted. Does this mean that Jesus doesn't have as much concern for others? No, in fact, the Gospel tells us that Jesus has a special preference for people who are merciful, those who are pure in heart, who work to bring peace. Those who follow Jesus are meant to take on His mind and heart. That means to include the poor, comfort those who mourn, bring justice where it is lacking, and be people of peace. Let your heart be the heart of Jesus.

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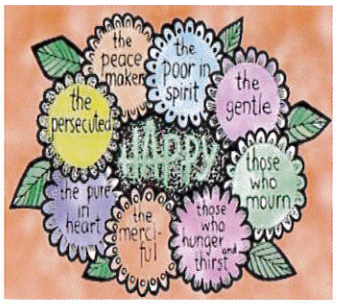
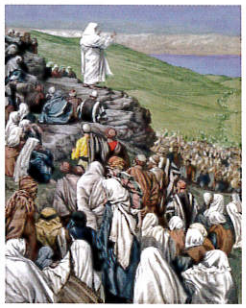


WRITE YOUR OWN BEATITUDES



Each Beatitude has two parts:

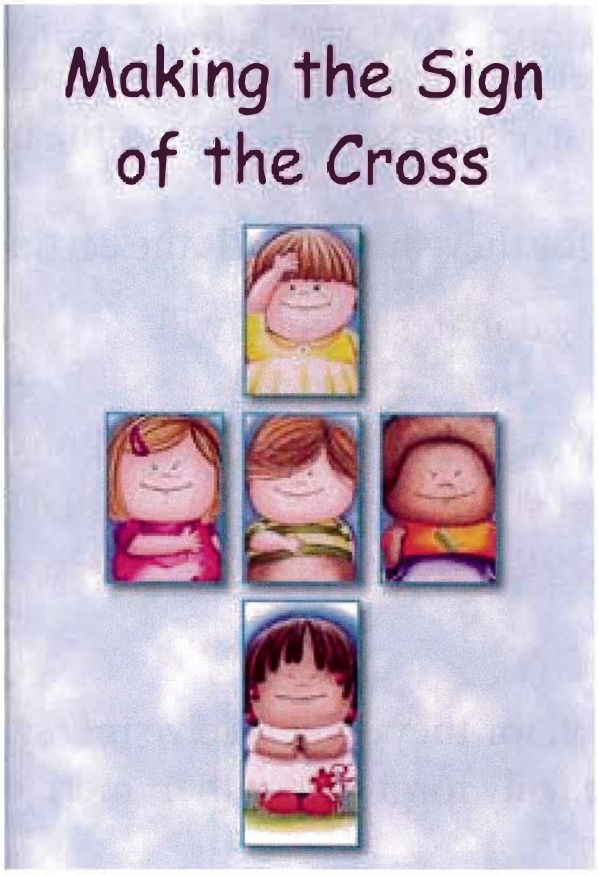
- "blessed are they..."
- "for they..."

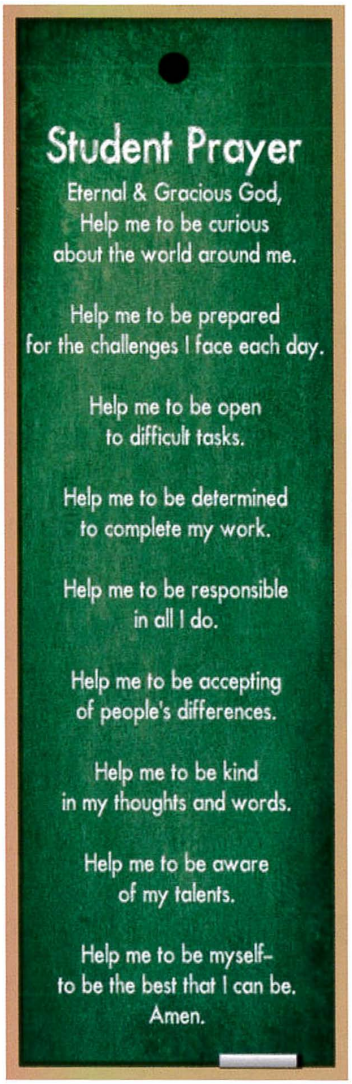
What would the Beatitudes look like and sound like if you wrote them in your own words? Try this as an activity with your family or friends this week!

JESUS SAYS...	BLESSED ARE...	FOR THEY...
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.		
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.		
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.		
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.		
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.		
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.		
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven		

YOU ASKED...

Why do we make the Sign of the Cross? ... and what does it mean?





The Christian begins his day, his prayers, and his activities with the sign of the cross: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." The baptized person dedicates the day to the glory of God and calls on the Savior's grace which lets him act in the Spirit as a child of the Father. The sign of the cross strengthens us in temptations and difficulties. (CCC 2157)

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"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

A person gives up free time in order to volunteer.

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

A person loses a very close family member. God reassures us of the Resurrection reuniting us in the hereafter.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

A person anonymously donates to good will.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." A student stands up for an individual who is being bullied, teased, and thereby tormented

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

Anytime someone truly forgives another, mercy is shown.

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God."

A person completes a good act without expecting a reward in return.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Old friends decide to let go of a grudge.

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Someone is mocked for standing up for an individual that others do not like.