

to teach

vt 1. To impart knowledge or skill; to instruct. 2. To provide knowledge of; instruct in. 3. To cause to learn by example or experience. 4. To advocate or preach.



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LENT AND EASTER: WHAT DOES GOD ASK OF US?

The forty-day period of Lent followed by the fifty days of Easter are a wonderful opportunity to look at what God asks of us. During Lent, we prepare for the feast of Easter through fasting, prayer, and works of charity. Through these traditional practices, we draw closer to God and reflect on our calls to baptism and discipleship. During the fifty-day period between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, we celebrate the joy of the risen Christ and the unfolding of God's kingdom in our midst.

Use the ideas and activities in this issue of *To Teach* as a resource to deepen the experience of this sacred time in school and religious education settings.

Traditionally, the Church calls us to the Sacrament of Penance during the season of Lent. Distribute copies of the newest resource, *How to Go to Confession*, to your students to help them better understand this sacrament of faith that recalls our baptism and restores our relationship with God.

How to Go to Confession is an easy to use, fold-out resource that answers the most basic questions about the Sacrament of Penance. The last page is a tear-off sheet with instructions on "How to Go to Confession" (No. 5-547, six-panel brochure, 25/\$10.00). Quantity discounts are available.

PENITENTIAL PRACTICES: STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

An important way to grow in our love and reverence for God is through the use of three traditional spiritual exercises. Here is a brief overview of them and some ideas and resources to help you further these practices in your school.

PRAYER is a process of listening to and responding to God's call. Jesus emphasized the importance of genuine prayer and noted the need for quiet and solitude in a life of Christian prayer.

Use *Prayers of the Lenten and Easter Season* as a resource for personal prayer as well as in the classroom and for faculty meetings.

Vary the types of prayer used with students. Expose them to quiet reflection and guided meditation along with more traditional or spontaneous ways to pray.

FASTING and other acts of self-denial give us more energy to devote to God and can sharpen our concern for others.

Isaiah 58:6-7 connects fasting with setting free those who are oppressed and homeless. Use this as a discussion starter with students on the causes and possible responses to homelessness and poverty.

The pamphlet *Penitential Practices for Today's Catholics* has some beautiful reflections on the meaning of fasting and other spiritual disciplines.

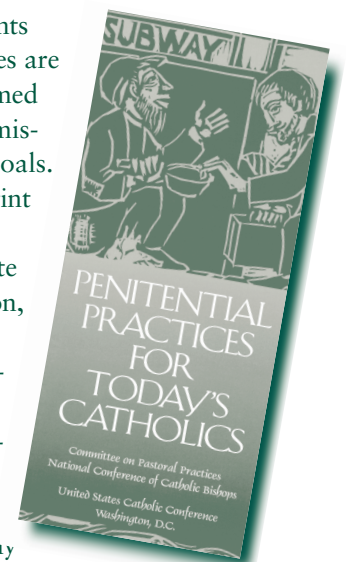
Together with faculty or school board members, read and discuss it at the beginning of Lent.

ALMSGIVING puts us in touch with those in need and reminds us of our constant call to be generous and compassionate.

When donating money to a charitable organization during Lent, make

sure students and families are well-informed about its mission and goals. Provide print materials and website information, or invite a representative from the organization to speak at an assembly or PTA meeting.

Provide families with a list of suggested ways to donate time and other resources to local charities. Check with the parish or diocese for ideas.



At a Glance



"THE SEASON OF LENT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A TIME OF PROLONGED PENANCE FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WE PREPARE FOR THE GREAT EASTER MYSTERIES BY COMMITTING OURSELVES TO FULFILL OUR BAPTISMAL CALL TO MATURITY, HOLINESS, SERVICE, AND COMMUNITY."

—*Penitential Practices for Today's Catholics*

Your school will want to have the following resources on hand for use in classrooms, at faculty meetings, and at school boards.

Penitential Practices for Today's Catholics: This brochure offers a succinct description of the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and how to infuse them into daily life.

Way of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross have long served as a way for Catholics to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Using the lives of women and men who serve as witnesses to the faith, this resource provides a way to reflect on issues of justice and peace.

Principles, Prophecy, and a Pastoral Response: This booklet presents the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and the principles behind them. It includes discussion questions for individuals or small group.

Sharing the Tradition, Shaping the Future: This is the first in a series of small-faith sharing booklets that offers a more in-depth examination of the themes of Catholic social teaching.

Prayers of the Lenten and Easter Seasons: A book of prayers and blessings for use during the seasons of Lent and Easter along with brief explanations of the meanings behind them.

Night Prayer: It is designed to allow us to give thanks for and reflect upon the day just passed and to entrust ourselves to God's care throughout the night.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response: This pastoral letter on stewardship by the U.S. bishops details the principles behind stewardship and ways to make it a part of everyday life and practice.

THE BOOKSTORE

PENITENTIAL PRACTICES FOR TODAY'S CATHOLICS

English: No. 5-403, 16 pp., 25/\$15.00
Spanish: No. 5-854, 16 pp., 25/\$15.00

PRAYERS FOR THE LENTEN AND EASTER SEASONS

No. 301-9, 64 pp.
1-9 copies, \$3.95 each
10-24 copies, \$3.50 each
25+ copies, \$2.95 each

PRINCIPLES, PROPHECY, AND A PASTORAL RESPONSE

Revised Edition
English: No. 5-433, 52 pp.
Spanish: No. 5-847, 52 pp.
1-9 copies, \$4.95 each
10-24 copies, \$3.95 each
25+ copies, \$2.95 each

NIGHT PRAYER

From the Liturgy of the Hours
No. 5-148, 80 pp., \$6.95

WAY OF THE CROSS

Toward Justice and Peace
English: No. 5-235, 20 pp.
Spanish: No. 5-236, 20 pp.
1-9 copies, \$1.95 each
10-24 copies, \$1.50 each
25+ copies, \$1.00 each

STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE

A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship Tenth Anniversary Edition
English: No. 5-465, 80 pp., \$9.95
Spanish: No. 5-883, 80 pp., \$9.95

TO BE A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

A Summary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship
English: No. 568-2, 16 pp., 25/\$15.00
Spanish: No. 569-0, 16 pp., 25/\$15.00

EXCERPTS FROM "SHARING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING"

Contain the seven themes of Catholic social teaching. These colorful green and purple cards and posters are useful handouts designed for a wide variety of settings.
Card: English: No. 5-315, 50/\$10.00
Card: Spanish: No. 5-815, 50/\$10.00
Poster: English: No. 5-318, \$2.00
Poster: Spanish: No. 5-818, \$2.00

FAITH-SHARING BOOKLETS

Each of these guides contains Scripture readings, reflections, focus questions, and suggested group actions.
Prices for the Faith-Sharing Booklets:
1-9 copies, \$2.50 each
10-24 copies, \$2.00 each
25+ copies, \$1.50 each

Sharing the Tradition, Shaping the Future (Book I)

English: 5-451, 28 pp.;
Spanish: 5-856, 28 pp.

The Call to Family, Community, and Participation (Book II)

English: No. 5-189, 28 pp.;
Spanish: No. 5-835, 28 pp.

Dignity of the Human Person (Book III)

English: No. 5-190, 28 pp.;
Spanish: No. 5-850, 24 pp.

Preferential Option for and with the Poor (Book IV)

English: No. 5-191, 28 pp.;
Spanish: No. 5-851, 24 pp.

Solidarity with the Poor (Book V)

English: No. 5-192, 28 pp.;
Spanish: No. 5-853, 24 pp.

Quantity discounts are available on all publications. Call toll-free 800-235-8722 for more information. To order these resources or to obtain a free catalog of other USCCB titles, call toll-free 800-235-8722. In the Washington metropolitan area or from outside the United States, call 202-722-8716. Visit the U.S. bishops' Internet site located at www.usccb.org. Para ordenar recursos en español, llame al 800-235-8722 y presione 4 para hablar con un representante del servicio al cliente, en español.



to teach

Spring 2003

WAYS TO USE CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING DURING LENT AND EASTER

for Principals & School Boards

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Take inventory of what resources are available in your school's library or resource center on the theme of life and dignity of the human person. Make sure that copies of the resources for this theme as listed in *Principles, Prophecy, and a Pastoral Response* are available for use by faculty and/or students.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Provide a copy of *Call to Family, Community, and Participation* to all faculty and school board members. Use one of the sessions as prayer for the start of the Lenten faculty or school board meeting.

Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person

Plan a spring "Gift of Life" Mass or prayer service for the school. Fill it with signs of life through the inclusion of candles, flowers, and lively music. Hand out *Prayer for Life* prayer cards.

Option For and With the Poor and Vulnerable

Use Week 3 from *Preferential Option for and With the Poor* as a vehicle for assessing how your school is carrying out the biblical models of a community of justice.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Send a personal thank-you note to every person employed by the school, acknowledging their dedication and hard work.

Solidarity

Use *Solidarity with the Poor* as a discussion tool. Make a list of local institutions that work for social justice in your community. How can your school partner with them in their efforts?

Care of God's Creation

Assess your school's consumption habits and behaviors. What kind of wasteful consumption of water or energy—for example—can be reduced by raising awareness among faculty members and students?

for Teachers

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Make mutual respect a primary aspect of your classroom environment. Compile a list of words and terms that shows love, kindness, and respect for the dignity of other people.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Provide at-home resources for parents on practical ways to enhance communication and resolve conflict in peaceful ways.

Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person

Initiate a classroom discussion on how some people are denied participation in decisions that affect their lives. Have students write down the advice and encouragement they would give to the president or state governor, to the pastor or bishop, to teachers, principals, and parents.

Option For and With the Poor and Vulnerable

Plan a weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent for the entire school or individual classes. Use *Way of the Cross* as a resource.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Make a classroom list of the types of work carried out by parents and guardians. Use it to acknowledge how many different types of labor—at home and in the marketplace—are needed for the good of all.

Solidarity

Create a mural for the classroom or a school hallway entitled, "One Human Family." Use photographs from magazines and other sources. Make the mural reflect the many different kinds of people throughout the world. Use it to identify the needs that all humans have in common.

Care of God's Creation

Initiate a spring cleaning project in your classroom. How many items can be recycled or reused rather than thrown in the trash?

Hang a copy of the poster *Excerpts from "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching"* in your school or classrooms during Lent which highlights the seven themes of Catholic social teaching. Or distribute the cards *Excerpts from "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching"* to students and faculty as reminders.





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To Teach, e-mail us at
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STEWARDSHIP: OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

"WHO IS A CHRISTIAN STEWARD? ONE WHO RECEIVES GOD'S GIFTS GRATEFULLY, CHERISHES AND TENDS THEM IN A RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE MANNER, SHARES THEM IN JUSTICE AND LOVE WITH OTHERS, AND RETURNS THEM WITH INCREASE TO THE LORD."

—*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*

Use the Easter season to promote Christian stewardship in your school. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Challenge students to make a single change in their lifestyles that will reduce the waste of natural resources.
- Ask students to read *To Be a Christian Steward*, the summary of *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. What does stewardship mean for someone their age? How can they live a life of good stewardship?
- Ask students to compose, as individuals or as a group, a sermon on stewardship. Which of Jesus' teachings would they use?
- Encourage students to transform their Lenten fasting practices into Easter "feasting" ones. How can they share their gifts and resources more generously?
- Evangelization is also part of stewardship. Plan an end-of-the-year "Good News" assembly. Have each class prepare a short presentation or skit on what they learned about Jesus during the past year and how they will share it with others. Follow up with a party!

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Operation Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program that invites parish and school communities to pray, fast, learn, and give throughout Lent. Catholic Relief Services is the official overseas relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This program is ideal for enriching a school community's Lenten journey through prayer resources, curriculum ideas, and stories about our global family in the developing world.

For more information, visit www.catholicrelief.org/orb or call 800-222-0025 to order **FREE** materials for your school.

