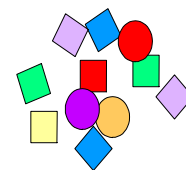


Walk the Talk



We are all gifted!

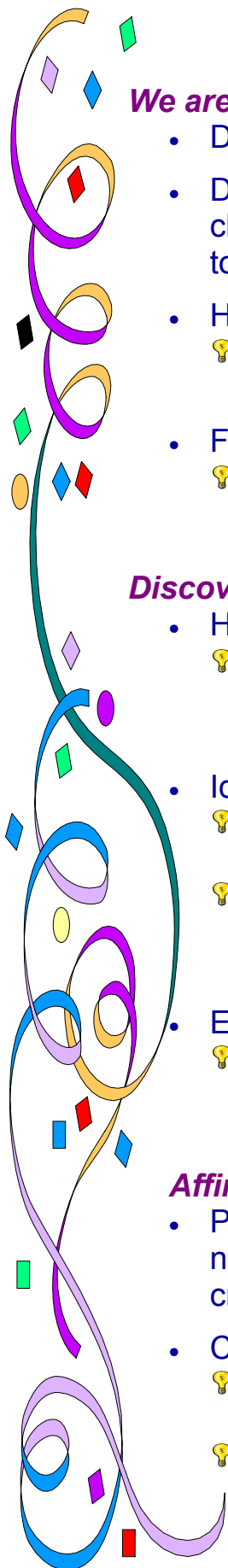
- Develop the sense that ALL we have and are is gift from God.
- Discuss what a gift is; use the children's experience of gifts as something chosen with care, wrapped, special, given out of love. Discuss the need to thank the giver, take care of the gift, etc.
- Help the children name some of the gifts that come from God.
 - 💡 Family, friends, animals, pets, school, teachers, books, house, earth, trees, money, toys, clothes, talents, skills, etc.
- Foster the fact that each of us is gifted in different ways.
 - 💡 Not everyone has the same gifts. Our particular gifts make us special. Everyone, though, has God-given gifts!

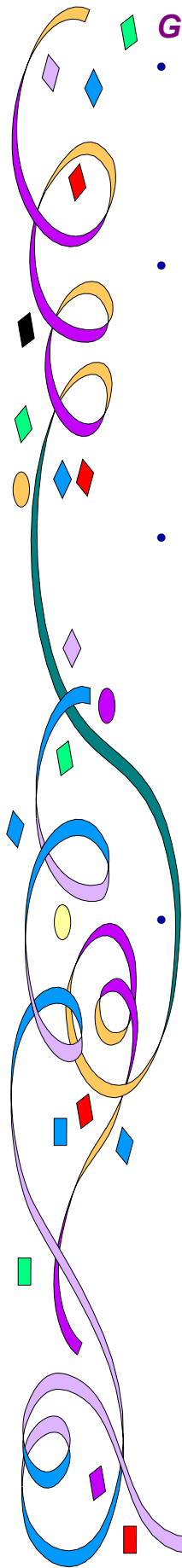
Discover!

- Help the children discover their individual gifts.
 - 💡 Do activities with the children to discover what they are good at, what they like to do, what brings them joy—their passions...these constitute some of their gifts!
- Identify communal gifts.
 - 💡 What does the class or a group of their friends enjoy doing and do well? What could they do together?
 - 💡 Discuss the workings of a team—each player has a particular position and every position is needed and has equal value to the team. EVERYONE'S gifts are needed to build God's kingdom.
- Encourage the children to recognize the gifts of others.
 - 💡 Have the children listen to stories told by another or observe someone else doing a particular task. What gifts did they see or hear?

Affirm!

- Post gifts discovered and acts of stewardship in the parish bulletin, newsletter or other communications. Use pictures and tell the story to create excitement!
- Celebrate our giftedness!
 - 💡 Regularly and publicly celebrate the gifts of the children at Mass (in the general intercessions, homilies, and in song) or parish events.
 - 💡 Use banners, songs, skits, witness talks, pictures, gift tree or other creative ways of celebrating the gifts of the children with the parish community. It could be contagious!



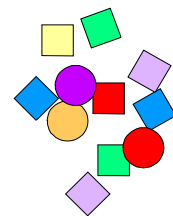


Give Thanks and Share!

- We thank God by using our gifts with love and joy in service to others.
 - 💡 We need to thank God for everything God has given us. A “Thank You, God” Card (brought up during liturgy), a class-prepared Thanksgiving prayer, a litany of Thanksgiving, a “Thank You, God” section of the bulletin composed by the children, etc.
- Develop a sense that we are all responsible for using our gifts for good.
 - 💡 Reference gifts in the children’s experience for which they need to exercise care and to share (e.g. pets, toys, seedlings/plants, personal hygiene, their rooms, siblings, etc.).
 - 💡 Scripture stories (parables in particular—the talents, the seed, the fig tree, the lost coin, etc.) illustrate Jesus’ ideas about the need to use our gifts responsibly.
- Introduce an envelope program as one way of showing accountability for sharing gifts.
 - 💡 Use envelopes that include the use and sharing of time, talent and material possessions.
 - 💡 Create your own envelopes! Have a group effort for each class or grade level to design their own envelopes.
 - 💡 Approach your parish’s envelope company or other vendor to sponsor envelopes for each month, quarter or year at no cost.
 - 💡 Always and in all ways communicate what is happening in the lives of the community’s children as gifts are being used and shared well.
- Connect existing or create new ministries and activities all with the sense of giftedness.

Altar Server
Rainbows for God’s Children
Lector
Junior Catechist
Catechist Assistant
Office Helpers
Usher
Hospitality
Stewardship
Hall Monitors
Children’s Choir
Theatre Productions
Family Activities
Environment in Art and Worship
Computer Ministry
Adopt a Grandparent
Tutoring

Environmental Concerns
Church Mice
Handiwork
Landscape
Advent Projects
Lenten Projects
Back to School Supplies
Collect canned goods
Project Warmth
Giving Tree
Pen Pals
Holy Childhood Association
Greeting Cards
Team with Children’s Hospital or Senior Housing Facilities
Justice and Peace Committee



...The possibilities are as endless as God’s generosity!

Our baptism calls us to help build God’s kingdom by participating in the mission of Jesus. We do this as Christian stewards when we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them in love and justice with others, and stand before the Lord in a spirit of accountability.