

Class 1

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Introduction

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¶ Again students, welcome to the opening class of the 7th grade St. Aloysius Religious Education Program for 2019-2020.

¶ Before we begin our class let us open with a prayer.

Lord, inspire us to hear your teachings this morning and to meditate upon them at some points during our regular school week.

We ask you to give us real understanding of what we hear today, that we in turn may put these truths and precepts into practice.

Yet, we know Lord, that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love.

So, we ask that the ideas discussed today may also be not just pictures on a computer screen and words we hear from the class book, but channels of your grace and your love into our hearts, our beings and our souls.

Help us oh Lord to have your teachings imbedded into our spirits and actually change our lives by moving our souls and our minds in your direction which leads to everlasting life in your presence in your kingdom, your kingdom you have called Heaven.

Help us to never be separated from you and to live in this world with you constantly at our side and even deep within us through your holy spirit and the body of Christ we receive in communion, Amen.

This year you are going to learn many prayers and expected to know them by heart and you'll be tested on them later in the year. We're going to teach you to pray and enjoy it and find happiness in it. We'll discuss them a little later.

OK, next I would like to go around the table and ask each of you to give us your name and where you go to school and ask if you are involved in any activities like scouts or sports or some other activity or hobby you enjoy.

If not we'll try to make it interesting. Have discussions. Have some visual aids. Ask some interesting questions.

We'll keep it lively with going around the table and asking for you opinions.

We want you to shout out your ideas on things!!!

OK, time to introduce myself.

❖ at my age you tend to turn around and look back at all the things the good Lord has done for you

- protection
- provisions
- family
- school
- jobs

Say how you are impressed they are here, many are not interested in God

You obey your parents and come here

Mention conduct during the year and bad experiences last year; No sleeping & talking to neighbor.

No phones.

I Hope to make this class an interesting and educational experience and to be a small part of your week that you may actually look forward to!

Ask if some find it difficult attending religious education.

Expectations: learn prayers (hand out prayers and folders), attend class, read the lesson and be prepared, be adult and courteous in in class (mention consequence) and you will be expected to participate.

I'm not here to deal with babies. I'm here to deal with young adults growing and learning to become mature adults.

Pass out paper to be signed and the expectations for homework.

- 3** Let's begin our lesson for todayI'd like to ask each of you for your impression of who God is and what he is like.

The reason I asked this is because most people your age feel that god is an old man with a beard sitting on some cloud just waiting to punish people for when they do wrong.

Old man with beard cracking the whip when we do wrong

Wanting to punish people and send them to hell

I would like to know how you feel about our God.

How would you describe god, from your point of view? **Go around room.**

Comment on their opinions

Would you like to hear how God described himself?

Ask if they know

4 This is how he described himself: as a mother hen gather her chicks.

Comment on this, how loving and caring this is. Matthew 23:37` Jerusalem! Jerusalem! You kill the prophets. You throw stones

to kill the men who are sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people together, as a **mother hen** gathers her little ones under her wings. But you would not come!

Do you feel like you want to be a son or daughter to the almighty being, whom we call God to be a Father you?

I do, comment on how happy you are you have a God to run to.

I'd like to ask you a question: how old is everyone?

Look at events that happened 16 years ago.

5 Patriots winning super bowl

6 Marlins winning the World Series

7 2003 Lincoln Continental

8 Where were you on New Year's Eve in 2003?

You didn't exist!

What was it like not existing?

Well, we all exist now and we have 5 senses to know that we exist.

Ask them about the 5 senses

Let's talk a little about the senses

Go around the room and ask each for one of their favorite sounds

What is your favorite sound?

9 racing horses

What is your favorite vision?

10 beautiful birds

What is your favorite smell?

11 baking bread

What is your favorite taste?

12 chocolate eclair

What is your favorite feeling?

13 a hot shower

OK, what is the point of all this?

The Question is; What would you prefer, non-existence or existence with all these benefits of our senses.

With existence we not only have our senses but we have all our experiences.

Show experiences

14 play with friends

15 the joy of our family

16 the joy of learning

If we love all these experiences and the things we sense with our senses you must admit this is better than not existing, correct?

Who agrees and..... who disagrees?

It is natural for us to say we are thankful for this life, correct?

If so to whom should we give our thanks?

17 to God Almighty. Why not to something else?

Why to God, because he **is** life.

18 the way, the truth and the life.explain context, Thomas asked what is the way when Jesus said he was going to his father.

19 God said to Moses, I am.....explain context, Moses seeing the burning bush

20 the resurrection and the life.....explain context, Jesus saying to Martha before raising Lazarus

21 before Abraham was, I am.....explain context, Pharisees asking Jesus where does he get his authority, he's not Abraham

God is the reason and cause of all existence because he is life.

Nothing would exist without His sustaining energy

22 this would not exist

23 this would not exist

24 this would not exist

25 this would not exist

26 this would not exist

27 this would not exist

28 this would not exist

29 this would not exist

30 this would not exist

31 this would not exist

Nothing would exist, absolutely nothing except God Himself.

If these things be true:

1. We enjoy existence much, much more than non-existence
2. If we enjoy all the experiences we have from our 5 senses.
3. If we enjoy all of our life experiences

4. If God is the reason everything and everyone exists
5. If it is natural to be thankful for life

Then...Is it not only fair, decent, honorable, and reasonable that we come together for a small portion of the week on Sunday morning, seeking God, learning more about god and searching for his way of life?
How can such an endeavor be boring and not worth our time.

Is everyone agreed on this point?

We're dealing with a God who has attributes!

32 All powerful

33 All knowing

34 Never had a beginning and will never have an end

35 Everywhere present: A person, not a thought, an idea or a thing.

36 We are like him, in his likeness, so think of God as a person who loves us more than being any one of these other attributes.

37 He hurts when we ignore him

38 The greatest attribute of god is his love for us. expand

39 God actually command us to take time to honor him in his third commandment.

Expand.

Good, we have many good and valuable things to discuss and learn this year so let us begin with what we will be discussing.

Ask the question if you were God and wanted to reveal yourself to men how would you do it?

When your mission was over what would you leave behind?

You'd leave behind a body of souls who have experienced your love and wanting to share that love and joy with his fellow man.

The church; expand on the idea of family, we're all related but with all the churches today which one is the true church? **40**

41 Jesus described his relationship to the church. Explain bride and bridegroom.

So, you should be very happy that you are a member of Jesus's true church.

As a member of his true church we are going to spend a good deal of time examining what the church is and what things we should be doing that Jesus taught us to do.

Show them the book.

Read and have them read along page 5. Welcome to Faith first.

You are one of God's people and you will never die! As long as.....

Go over the different chapters and elaborate.

OK, so without further ado let us begin the study of our first chapter of Unit One, the Church," The Church: The people of God".

IF TIME REVIEW VOCABULARY AND MAIN IDEAS.