

Make-up Lesson for Sunday Session 3-a for Grade 1

February

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
Erath, Louisiana

Large-Group Assembly for Grades 1 and 2

- After **Opening Prayer**, Mrs. Frances greeted the children and quickly reviewed a couple of details regarding the **liturgical calendar** (Seasons of Lent and Easter).
 - She often asks the children “What color was Fr. Metrejean’s chasuble (outer garment) at this weekend’s Mass?” *(The color of his chasuble matches the color of the current liturgical season. He wears green during Ordinary Time, but will soon wear violet during Lent—except, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, he will wear a rose-colored chasuble.)*
- The namesake of our church parish is **Our Lady of Lourdes**. Every year, we celebrate **The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** on February 11. Mrs. Frances invited everyone to participate in our church parish’s **Annual Eucharistic Procession** honoring Our Lady of Lourdes through the streets of Erath. *(Fr. Metrejean, Deacon Tim Marcantel, Deacon Russell Hayes took turns carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance through the streets of Erath. Along the route, while many volunteers pushed a cart carrying a life-size statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, carried a canopy above the statue, or carried flowers from station to station, several volunteers read passages recounting Our Lady’s apparitions to young Bernadette Salubrious in Lourdes, France, in 1858. The purpose of this procession is to bring Jesus Christ into the streets of Erath, making that area of our community holy, but it’s up to us to keep it holy! We must practice our Catholic Christian faith and live good Christian lifestyles in order to do so!)*
- At this point, Grade 2 teachers led students to their classrooms. Grade 1 remained in the big classroom for a while.

Grade 1 viewed a DVD: *Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes*

It’s important that you and your child understand why our church parish (in Erath) is named after an event which occurred in Lourdes, France in 1858! **Please prayerfully consider one of the following options:**

1. Log onto www.formed.org. Our church parish pays an annual subscription fee to this website so our parishioners can have access to an abundance of Catholic resources from the comfort of their rocker or recliner at home! Call our office (937-6888) to get our Church Parish Code. Use the code to log in and create a simple profile for yourself. Search for the title of the DVD (*Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes*).

2. **Borrow the 30-minute DVD** from our church office, but **please return it in a timely manner** so other families can borrow it as well.

Mrs. Frances led a brief discussion before the children watched the DVD. Feel free to use her questions before you and your child view the video:

- What is the name of your school? *Dozier Elementary or LeBlanc Elementary*
- Why/How did your school get its name? *Dozier Elementary is named after Robert & Frances Dozier, an African American couple who lived in Erath and wanted to educate the African American children of our community. LeBlanc Elementary is named for the rural community in which the school is built.*
- Who is in charge of making decisions for your school? *The principal (Mrs. Karla Touns at Dozier or Mrs. Dawn Amy at LeBlanc)*
- Why do you need to have someone in charge at your school? *(Without leadership and rules, everyone and everything would be out of control.)*
- What is the name of the Catholic church here in Erath? *Our Lady of Lourdes (Reminder: It's more than just a building! It's a church parish—a community of people who live inside an imaginary fence which was set up many years ago. Our current pastor, Fr. Metrejean is responsible for the souls of everyone—Catholics and non-Catholics—who lives within our church parish boundaries. Each priest uses the gifts, skills, and talents God gave him to serve all of his parishioners.)*
 - Who is in charge of making decisions for our church parish? *Fr. Metrejean, our pastor*
- Today's DVD will explain why our church is named "Our Lady of Lourdes." This is a true story about Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and a young girl named Bernadette Soubirous who lived in Lourdes, France, in the mid 1800s.
 - **Mrs. Frances frequently paused the video to ask questions and led brief discussions. Use the time stamps to guide yourself if you want to pause the video and ask the following questions:**
 - **1:08:** The young boy has some physical disabilities. What kinds of disabilities does he have? *He is in a wheel chair, so there's something wrong with his legs. He is blind (no pupils in his eyes and he had to "feel" the ball and ask his dad questions about the ball that fell into his lap).*
 - How do his parents feel about the trip they're taking? *His dad is excited about the possibility of a healing for the young boy and hopes the trip will strengthen their faith. His mom is very discouraged and feels hopeless.*
 - The title of the DVD is **Bernadette: Princess of Lourdes**. Describe a princess. *A princess is the daughter of a king and queen. A royal family usually lives in a huge castle or home and has servants who do all of the work (cooking and cleaning) in their home as well as servants who take care of the children and the property (buildings, fences, animals, fields, meadows, cars, etc.*
 - Let's see if Bernadette fits that description.
 - **4:00:** What is "**catechism**"? *Catechism is the study of our Catholic faith. We come to religious education—catechism—classes to learn more about God and our faith in Him.*
 - **4:55:** The priest in the video offers to us a good reminder when he says, "Very well. Still, you have to learn your catechism." When we struggle to learn details about our Catholic faith and our traditional prayers, God will continue to love us and, if we sincerely desire it, we are allowed to receive the Sacraments, but we must do our very best to continue to learn as much

as we can learn! *God has given each of us a specific amount of intelligence and we should use it to the best of our ability!*

- Bernadette couldn't answer the question regarding the Holy Trinity. Who/What is the Holy Trinity? *Three Persons in One God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
- **6:55:** What is a “**pigsty**”? *(A **pigsty** is a pig pen; an area where farmers raise pigs. It's usually very muddy and contains plenty of left-over “slop”—mixed and mashed up food for pigs to eat—scattered on the ground.)*
- **10:29:** Did you notice what Bernadette just said? Her parents just told her to stay away from the pigsty. When her Godmother asked Bernadette to “show” her where she saw the lady, Bernadette asked, “Can we ask Momma?” She was always obedient to her parents!
- **27:32:** The handicapped boy's mother is overwhelmed by the miracle that just healed her son. She stepped away and knelt, praying, “Father, forgive me. I was blind, but now I see.” Were her eyes really blind before the miracle, or was her faith blind? *(Her faith was “blinded” by her bitterness and anger regarding her son's handicaps. Sometimes, we just can't change the circumstances of our lives, but we can learn to accept them and live a loving and faith-filled life honoring Jesus Christ! That, in itself, is a “miraculous healing” for those who can do so!)*
- **After movie ends**, remind students that there is a difference between a **miracle** and a **healing**. A miracle happens instantly. In this case, the boy could see and walk immediately after the miracle occurred. A “healing” takes a while to be completed—perhaps a few days or months or years. Either way, both of them are wonderful gifts from the Blessed Trinity!
 - Now that you know that our church parish is named after Mary when she visited Bernadette in Lourdes, France, many, many years ago, can you think of anything here on our church property that reminds us of her visits with Bernadette? *(Yes! We have a **grotto** that has a statue of **Bernadette** kneeling on the ground while praying with the **Blessed Virgin Mary**!)*
 - Final question: Was Bernadette a real princess? *(She came from a very poor family that didn't always have enough to eat or enough money to visit the doctor when they were sick, but she was definitely “rich” in the things that are important to God: obedience, love of God and family, kindness, gentleness, and having courage to speak the truth even when others didn't want to hear the truth. She may not have been a princess in the eyes of people who lived on earth, but she was a “princess” in the eyes of God and Mother Mary! We should all strive to imitate her example!)*

Craft activity for Grade 1:

The children made a paper version of our Lourdes grotto out of construction paper. You may be able to do the same at home:

- Print a color sheet of Our Lady of Lourdes from the internet.
- Using plenty of torn pieces of construction paper in a variety of “stone” colors (beige, brown, gray, and



black) and a glue stick, arrange and glue the “stones” around Our Lady to form a grotto.

At each Sunday Session, Grade 1 always quickly reviews:

- Proper, respectful **Sign of the Cross** (words and actions).
- Every time we enter a Catholic Church, we dip one (or two) finger(s) in **Holy Water** and pray the Sign of the Cross while we focus our attention on the **Blessed Sacrament** (the **Real Presence of Jesus Christ**) in the **tabernacle**.
- Practice making a proper **genuflection**: Before we enter our pew in church, our right knee touches the floor as we focus our attention on the **Blessed Sacrament** in the **Tabernacle** (not in the pew looking for a place to sit).

Closing Prayer (when the church steeple begins to play music at approximately 10:45)

Together as a class, recite one of your class’ grade-level prayers as the closing prayer.

- You will find copies of the Grade 1 Prayer Sheets in your zip lock bag. Use them to read a closing prayer at the end of today’s class. **If a child was absent when they were distributed in October, please let him/her bring a copy home today. Please return the rest of the copies to your zip lock bag.**

Parent/Guardian:

Please complete the form on the next page and return it to Mrs. Frances as soon as possible. She will then be able to write an appropriate notation on the attendance chart to indicate that this lesson was made up with your help.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our attendance records to indicate that you have helped your child make up the work that he/she missed during Sunday Session 2-a in December.

My child, _____ (currently in Grade ____) and I have read and discussed all of the information included in this make-up packet for **Sunday Session 3-a for Grade 1 (in February)**.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Dismissal

Please **walk with your students (in single-file) to the “pick-up zone.”** Traffic will be heavy as parishioners arrive for 11:00 Mass and drive through the pick-up line. **If at all possible, please help us monitor the students in the pick-up zone.** (If you plan to attend 11:00 a.m. Mass, we certainly understand that you will not be able to linger and help.)

- Like the elementary schools, we attempt to form 3-4 “pick-up spots” along the cemetery alley near our classrooms. **A volunteer must stand at each spot.** As we call the children’s names, they walk out to meet the volunteers.
- The children line up against the classroom wall on sidewalk. They can be quite noisy in the pick-up line. **We do need the help of 1-2 volunteers who can stand on the sidewalk and keep them quiet so they can hear the names as they are called.**

Thank you for your help!

I can’t do any of this without the help of wonderful, generous volunteers like you!

If you ever have any questions or concerns (or emergencies),
please call, text, and/or email me.

Mrs. Frances T. Toups

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