

Parent's / Mentor Guide for the Parvuli Dei Religious Emblem Program

The following guide is designed for use by the (Arch)diocesan Religious Emblems Committee, the Religious Emblems Pack Coordinator Training Staff and Pack Religious Emblems Coordinators. Parents should have a copy provided to them during the meetings with the Pack Coordinator before they start to work with their son on the Parvuli Dei Religious Emblem program. The purpose of the meeting is to review the requirements, purposes, methodology, etc., of the program with the parents. Parents are encouraged to review this material during the course of their work with their son. During training or meetings with parents, the guide is best used along side of the Parvuli Dei Activity Book. For parents who have no trained Pack Religious Emblem Coordinator available to assist them, use this guide and refer to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) Religious Emblems Reference Manual, pp 22, 27-28, 37-40, found on-line at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/pdf/ReligiousEmblemsReferenceManual.pdf>, to understand how the program works.

The Parvuli Dei Religious Emblems program in of itself is not Catholic Religious Education. The Scout should attend parish religious education or Catholic school appropriate to his age. The activities of the program are based on Church teaching, but are designed to use his religious education, family life and Scouting experiences to discover the presence of God in his daily life and to develop a positive self-image.

Step 1: God and His Creation

When we look at the world around us, we can see that it is beautiful and that no two things are exactly alike. The world was made by God and is ours to enjoy and care for. We learn about God's creation in **Genesis**, the first book of the Bible.

1. This is a reading activity.
2. This is a craft activity.
3. This is a writing activity.
4. Compose a prayer.
5. Each person has unique gifts and abilities. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Answer the following questions by yourself focusing on your son. Keep these lists for later use. Then conduct the family activity.

List the unique gifts and abilities your son has.

What benefit does each of the gifts and abilities provide to the Church?

What activities can you guide your son into that use his gifts and abilities from God?

Step 2: God, Our Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and I

God has shown us His love by creating the world. He showed it another way too by sending His son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Read Luke 2 with your son.

1. This is a craft activity. Shepherds had very few material possessions; a staff or rod, a sling shot, goat's milk, goat's cheese, a dog and sheep.
2. If your parish has families present the gifts during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, volunteer to do this at Sunday Mass as a family.
3. Most parents attended Catholic schools or their parish religious education program. Family prayer life is another way for your son to learn about Jesus. The Rosary Patch and Footsteps of American Saints Patch programs offered by NCCS are additional forms of learning about Jesus.
4. A family activity becomes worship and celebration. Also have a smaller candle for each member of the family besides the large communal candle.
5. How to Love. Your son could take out the garbage, sweep the floor or help clean a sibling's room.

Step 3: Jesus, Our Church, and I

Since Jesus loves us so much, He calls us to become a special part of His family, and we call this the Catholic Church.

1. You can find the names in the weekly parish bulletins, the parish web site and the diocesan web site.
2. Contact the rectory for assistance in obtaining a contact list of the various ministries of the parish.
3. Besides contacting individuals serving in various parish ministries, show your son the parish bulletin, either in print or on-line.
4. Daily or weekly Missals have the major feast days listed. Don't forget each Sunday.
5. Using the information in parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, help your son prepare the two lists of things he can do. Review the gifts and abilities of your son that you prepared in Step 1, part 5. Do the lists match; his gifts and abilities and what he can do?
6. Use print or on-line media to get pictures for this requirement.

Step 4: Jesus, His people, and I

Jesus was always kind and good and never tired of doing things for others. He taught people and healed the sick. He did something for everyone He met.

1. The Good Samaritan

There is a certain resemblance between the communion of the divine Persons and the fraternity that people are to establish among themselves in truth and love. Love of neighbor is inseparable from love for God.

The human *person* is and ought to be the principle, the subject and the end of all social institutions. Certain societies, such as the family and the civic community, are necessary for the human person. Also helpful are other associations on the national and international levels.

2. Contact the parish rectory for assistance if you need help in locating a member of your parish to fulfill this requirement.
3. Attend Mass with your family.
4. Self-explanatory
5. Do the things your son thinks fit in this window conform to the Church's teaching in part 1 of this step?
6. If your son made his First Confession, he has real experience in dealing with this concept of sin and reconciliation.

Step 5: Children of God, Other Cub Scouts, and I

Jesus calls us to do our best to serve God.

1. Answers about Zaccheus Tax collector (Luke 19:2)

Because of the crowd, for he was short in stature (Luke 19:3)

He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree (Luke 19:4)

He said "half my possessions, lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I shall repay it four times over" (Luke 19:8)

2. Self-explanatory
3. Self-explanatory
4. This is a craft activity. The Pack or Pack Religious Emblems Coordinator may have samples from previous activities.