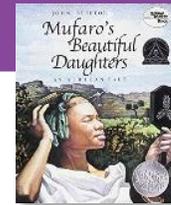


THIRD GRADE SUGGESTIONS: WHEN TO TEACH THE THEMES



MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS By John Steptoe



Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
<p>GIFT</p>	<p>The Feast of the Queenship of Mary (August 22nd)</p> <p>Venerable Pierre Toussaint (June 30th) He lived most of his life as a slave, but continued to give of himself to others. He saved his money to purchase his sister's freedom. After he obtained his freedom, he provided for his former slave owner's family in their time of need.</p> <p>Advent</p> <p>January (See EXPRESSION 1 pg. 31 Gifts of the Magi.) The three Magi Feast Days are Jan. 1, 6, & 11th</p>	<p><i>“God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.”</i> (Catechism of the Catholic Church 221)</p> <p>God has revealed that he is a total gift of self. Humans, male and female, have been created in the image of God (A Total Gift of Self) and thus bear the imprint of their Creator's call to self-gift within their very anatomy.</p> <p>We are called to give of ourselves to others out of love. This is our purpose. St. Pope John Paul II repeats the quote, “Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.” (<i>Gaudium et Spes</i> 24:3) many times throughout the <i>Theology of the Body</i>. We understand that true happiness is not found in taking from others, but in the very act of giving to others out of love.</p> <p>Teachers can incorporate this fundamental truth into their everyday language by asking, “<i>Who would like to make a gift of themselves by holding the door today?</i>”</p>
<p>FALL & REDEMPTION</p>	<p>The Feast of St. Helena (Aug. 18th) She converted to Christianity after her son, Emperor Constantine, began to believe in God. St. Helena had pieces of the true cross of Jesus' crucifixion moved to Rome to be venerated.</p>	<p>We are created in the image and likeness of God. Due to Original Sin, we struggle to be a gift of self in our relationships.</p> <p>The Fall has made it more difficult for us to live out the truth of our identity. We struggle in our relationships with God, nature and others. Our bodies also suffer through physical sickness.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">FALL & REDEMPTION (continued)</p>	<p>The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25th)</p> <p>Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita (Feb. 8th After living through a life of abuse and enslavement, she became a religious sister. She was grateful for her suffering because it led her to God.)</p> <p>The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter (Feb. 22nd) Even though St. Peter denied Jesus 3 times, God still chose him to lead the Church on Earth.</p> <p>Lent</p>	<p>The good news is that God has provided a plan for our redemption. God became man for us. Through his death on the cross, Christ gave a complete gift of himself. It is through this gift that we have the opportunity to be forgiven and redeemed. We see in Christ’s resurrection, the promise of our own resurrection. This resurrection will include the entire human person, body and soul.</p> <p>Christ also gave us the gift of the sacraments, which give us the grace to live a holy life. The sacraments allow us to more fully live our identity as sons and daughters of God.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">THE BODY REVEALS THE PERSON</p>	<p>The Feast of St. Mother Teresa (Sept. 5th) The poorest of the poor experienced God’s love through the bodily actions of St. Mother Teresa.</p> <p>The Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland. (Nov. 26th) See pg. 42 of the Teacher Companion Guide.</p> <p>Divine Mercy Sunday (The Sunday after Easter) In the 1930s Jesus appeared to Sister Faustina in Poland. Sister Faustina wrote of Jesus’ ardent desire to bestow merciful graces upon sinners. Jesus asked St. Faustina to share an image with the world. This image shows two rays coming from Jesus’ side that represent blood and water flowing from his heart as a fount overflowing with mercy.</p>	<p>A sacrament is a visible sign of invisible grace. In this way, the body acts as a sacrament. John Paul II said, <i>“The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine.” (TOB 19:4)</i></p> <p>The body allows us to communicate with others through words, body language and emotion. It allows for us to be in relationship with others through physical touch, making and offering gifts with our hands and offering our work and service to others.</p>
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