

My Dear ConQuest Families,

We will once again be doing our adventure into contemplative prayer this Lent. I have found this to be a wonderful opportunity to widen the boy's relationship with Jesus. Forget that contemplative prayer is considered one of the most difficult forms of prayer. I feel it happens naturally, for most boys excel in using their imagination. What boy hasn't caught the winning touchdown pass in the Super Bowl, won the big race with Hot Wheels, defeated the enemy in battle with his toy soldiers or hit the home run to win the World Series? In short, they have a unique ability to place themselves in the middle of the action. And when that action involves Jesus, they have entered into the realm of contemplative prayer.

Each boy will be given a situation in the Passion of Jesus. Then it is up to them to develop a story around that situation. On the last meeting before Easter, we will arrange their parts in chronological order and they will present their stories, uniting to tell the Passion of Jesus.

I realize that this can be a large undertaking for some of the younger boys, but I have found that it is important that they participate, some of them do extremely well while others struggle. What is important is they try. As the years pass by you see their abilities improve and their confidence grow.

Here is what I ask of you. Help them to develop their story. Talk with them about the situation and ask them what they think is happening around them.

- 1) Who are they? They can be Jesus, an observer, or a participant.
- 2) Where are they? Have them describe the landscape, the weather, the time of day, the smells and so on.
- 3) Who are they with? Describe the people that are about them, what are they doing, how are they dressed, what are their attitudes.
- 4) How do they relate to Jesus? How is this moment affecting Jesus, those about you and the way they relate to Jesus.

These presentations can last anywhere from 30 seconds to 5 minutes. The boys are encouraged to come in costume, bring props and their imagination. Of course points will be awarded accordingly. Thank you all for your efforts. It is truly an honor to have such wonderful families around us. God's blessing on all of you.

Yours in Christ,

Tom

St. Gwenevere, pray for us!