

Thirteenth Sunday of the Year

Make Jesus welcome

INTRODUCTION

Imagine if you met Jesus today, if he suddenly arrived at your house and rang the doorbell. When you realized who this "stranger" really was, what would you do and say to welcome him? Jesus wants us to treat everyone as we would treat him.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As the candles are lit, read this passage aloud:

The path to our heavenly father is like the sun rising, getting brighter and brighter as we draw closer to God. Those who turn away from his love, follow a path as dark as the night, and they stumble and fall as they cannot see the way.

(Proverbs 4:18-19)

SORRY

Jesus taught us that if we are full of forgiveness for others then our heavenly father will be full of forgiveness for us. Help us to remember this as we say the prayer of God's family together (all hold hands for the Our Father).

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 10:40-42)

Jesus said to his apostles: "Anyone who makes you feel welcome in their homes, is welcoming me, for I am with you always. Anyone who treats you kindly and shares their food and drink with you, is sharing their goodness with me and my father who sent me. However small or great their act of kindness, they will be rewarded for their goodness."

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to welcome someone? It means to greet someone with pleasure and friendliness, and to make them feel that you are pleased to see them.

How do you welcome anyone who comes to visit your home? If it is someone we have just met

or do not know very well, we might shake hands and say "hello." If it is a relative or a good friend, we might give them a kiss or a hug to welcome them. If they are children, we could also make them welcome by sharing toys or letting them join in a game we are playing.

Jesus always had time to spend with others, even when he was feeling tired. Remember the story when the disciples tried to stop the little children from coming to see Jesus, but Jesus welcomed them with open arms and spent some time with them.

In today's Gospel, what message did Jesus give us? Whenever we welcome anyone and treat them kindly, then we are welcoming Jesus. Remember how at baptism we all received the gift of God's spirit? Because of this gift, each one of us and every person that we meet has the light of Christ burning inside, and so we should treat them as we would treat Christ.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us that when we do something for another out of kindness and love, we are actually doing this for him. He says: "When you do any of these things for others, you do it for me." (Matthew 25:35-40)

Our reward for being kind and loving towards someone else is a wonderful feeling of happiness glowing inside us. At that very moment the light of the Holy Spirit is truly burning brightly inside us!

ACTIVITY

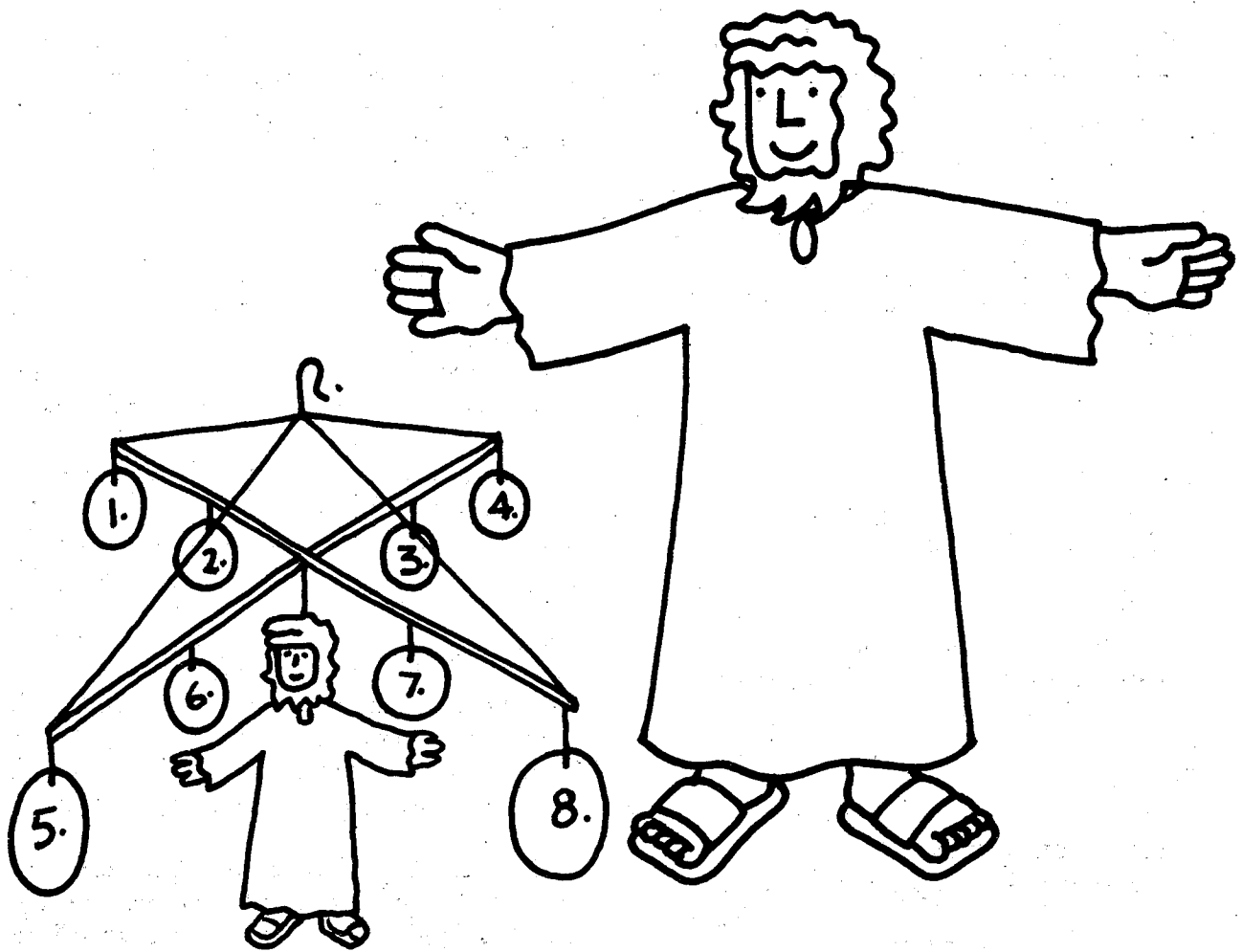
Make and cut out circles with scenes of people making others feel welcome. Arrange these on a mobile around the central figure of Jesus.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to love
and care for everyone,
by remembering that each person we meet
has the spirit of God living inside them.

Help us to welcome others
knowing that we are really welcoming you.



PICTURES

1. Looking after someone who is ill.
2. Helping someone who has hurt themselves.
3. Welcoming a friend and sharing toys.
4. Sharing a meal.
5. Visiting a hospital.
6. Letting someone join your game.
7. Helping someone who is lost.
8. Greeting people with a friendly smile.