

Third Sunday of the Year

We belong to one body

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes when we hurt ourselves, we realize just how often we use that particular part of our body. Today St. Paul reminds us that one body is made up of many parts and that all of these are important in their own way.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and pray together:

May the light of Jesus fill our lives with love.

SORRY

Encourage the children to listen carefully to the words of this prayer:

Do not be afraid;

God will always love you.

Whatever you have done,

God will always love you.

As a father loves his child,

God will always love you.

Turn back to him and know,

God's love lasts forever.

GLORIA

ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's reading sing Acclamation 4.

READING (1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-30)

Just as your body has many different parts, so it is with the Christian family. Each part of your body has a special job to do, and without that part your body could not work properly. Without your legs you could not stand up and walk.

Many different parts make up one body, and every part is just as important as another. Each one of us belongs to the one family of God and has special gifts which God has given to us. We must use these gifts to make sure that the one body of Christ works properly and is full of life.

DISCUSSION

Ask the children to point to each part of their

body as you read this list: head, toes, elbow, mouth, knee, nose, back, ear. Which one of these parts is most important?

Each part of the body does its own particular job, which only it can do. You can neither see with your ears nor smell with your knees! The whole body relies on the eyes for sight, and on the ears to hear, and on the legs to carry it about. No part can manage without the others; they are all equally important.

St. Paul compared us to parts of the one body of Christ. What did he mean? At baptism each of us became a member of the family of God and was invited to share in the life of Jesus who rose from the dead. Although there are many Christians in the world today, together we make up one church, or one body, that believes in and follows the teachings of Jesus.

As many parts belonging to the one body of Christ, what jobs can we do in the church and in our ordinary lives? We can put whatever talents we have to good use in lots of different ways. Many people help us to celebrate at church on Sunday: the musicians and choir, the flower arrangers, the readers, the people who welcome us at the door. They do all these jobs on behalf of everyone.

In the same way, in our ordinary lives, our acts of kindness and love work on behalf of everyone else who belongs to the family of God.

ACTIVITY

Cut out the various parts of the body as illustrated. Punch holes in the relevant places (take care if you are doing this with the children) and ask the children to assemble a body from the various parts. (If possible, use metal fasteners so the children can move the body parts around.)

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you call each one of us
to belong to one people,
the family of God.

Help us, together with our brothers and sisters,
share your love with the world.

