

Children's Liturgy Yearend Report for 2009-10

This year we had seventeen children register for the Preschool, K-1 catechism program compared to last year when we had eleven registered. I believe this increase is due to a more active recruitment and invitation for registering children that Lynn Koett embarked on during September 2009. During most Sundays, we would see a range from 8 to 15 children in attendance.

The program is themed under the title, "Invited to belong to God", introducing God as a loving and caring "abba" or parent who loves us unconditionally. We use the text book, "Little Children come to Jesus" and follow a consistent format that includes the following:

- 1) Introduction and reflection of the prayer table, which is set with a candle, the cross and a bible.
- 2) Recite the Lord's Prayer with special consideration for teaching them the correct hand position for the signing of the cross.
- 3) A reading of the gospel from our children's text.
- 4) Dialogue Homily
- 5) Activity, often the coloring of a picture that depicts the message of the gospel read.
- 6) Intercession: Invite children to ask Jesus to hear our prayers and give examples of what prayers we would offer based on the reading. Children then provide their own.

The children are always enthusiastic and often provide much insight and understanding to the topics we discuss. Occasionally we have older children or parents join us and they help the younger children with the activity or provide supervision if children request to return to their parents or need to use the washroom. In this way, no child is allowed to leave the room without accompaniment.

Our session runs from mid September to the end of June, Maria Hilton and I provide most of the instruction, with Lynn Koett helping lead when we are unable to attend. It would be recommended to actively recruit for another instructor and I will follow up with names that I have been given through the parish survey. It has been a pleasure to serve as the children's liturgy co-ordinator and I look forward to doing so again, next year!

Sincerely,

Stasia Hartley,

Children's Liturgy Co-ordinator