

## Successful Classroom Management Techniques!

- 1 Plan your lessons well. Remember the words of Pope John Paul from the teachers manual, “It is Christ who is taught and it is Christ alone who teaches.”
2. Pray to the Holy Spirit as you prepare your lesson.
  - Set a routine for personal preparation time planning for more than necessary.
3. Study the lesson and outline the text.
  - Develop the lesson theme
  - Outline chapter to teach lesson in your own words.
    - Students will be attracted to your teaching if you are prepared and can teach in your own words with enthusiasm.
  - Decide which Church feast day or saint on which to do a short teaching by checking church calendar for coming week.
- List the following to be memorized for the lesson.
- A short Scripture passage
  - Questions and answers from text
  - A Vocal Prayer
4. Teach the fact that religion class is a most important subject.
  - They have been given the responsibility to...“go, therefore and make disciples of all nations... teach them to carry out all that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, even until the end of the world. (Mt.28:18-20)
  - Challenge them to “Proud to Be Catholic” Presentations in Apologetics.
  - Provide periodic assessments.
5. Follow a routine on the first day and continue the procedure throughout the year.
  - Begin and end your class with prayer. Include Scripture and a prayer, which has been previously memorized.
  - Establish the rules for disciple and follow them throughout the year.

- ◆ Momentarily commencing with your presentation, looking at those talking and then proceeding is more effective discipline than scolding.
- ◆ Boredom is usually not found in a classroom where the students are challenged in learning the basics of their Catholic Faith.
- ◆ When necessary seat students in straight rows away from friends.
  - ◆ Give responsibilities to the student who wants to talk with others or “act out” in front of the class.
- Learn student’s name as soon as possible. You might use nametags for a few classes with a memorized scripture quote for the day at the bottom on the nametag.

6. With an attractive format, use poster boards to:

- ◆ List names of students and prayers they have memorized
- ◆ Display Scripture quotations and prayers that have been memorized.
- ◆ Make a monthly calendar using your parish church calendar to mark:
  - ◆ Holy Days of Obligation
  - ◆ Solemn Feast Days of the Church
  - ◆ Saints Days

7. Provide them with inspirational saint stories. Tell them about the story so they can look forward to the following week:

*Next week we are going to find out about St. Catherine Laboure’s surprise one night when she saw an angel at her bedside telling her something she could hardly believe.*

8. Mention what they can tell their parents they learned today.

*Example: “I learned that the four moral cardinal virtues are prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude.*

9. Have a regular plan for review games

- ◆ Bible Password, Catholic Doctrine Cards, TicTacToe, Credo, Bible Baseball, Divine Pursuit are examples of review games.

- ◆ Divide the students in teams keeping a record of the winning team each week.
- ◆ Students will be motivated to listen to the teaching if they know there will be a review game that they can compete in during the class period.
- ◆ Periodically reward students who try and those who excel with holy cards, small medals, crucifixes, etc.

10. Utilize a few minutes periodically to ask short review questions during class time, or while they are entering or leaving class.

*Susan, what did Jesus say to his apostles when he found them sleeping in the garden of Gethsemane? Jimmy could you tell me the three theological virtues? Larry, will you begin saying the first sentence of the Act of Contrition so each one in your row can follow you with another sentence?*

11. Creatively use visual aids.

- ◆ With the rest of the room dark, use a spotlight on a religious picture such as the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy, Blessed Mother during prayer time.
- ◆ Provide times when students can pray silently. Background Gregorian music adds to the atmosphere.
- ◆ Use the chalkboard for outlining and reinforcing the lesson. Involve the students in using the chalkboard.
- ◆ Utilize flannel board cutouts to teach the life of Christ.
  - ◆ Capture students with an explanation of beautiful religious pictures.

12. Inspire the students with a knowledge and love of Catholic Traditions:

Popular Devotions

- ◆ Visits to the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Processions
- ◆ Stations of the Cross

- ◆ Rosary
- ◆ Medals

- ◆ Sacramentals

13. Instill in your students an Anticipation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

14. Give them a knowledge and love for:

- ◆ Our Lord Jesus Christ
- ◆ Scripture
- ◆ Sacrament of Penance - Reconciliation
- ◆ Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
- ◆ Church Teachings
- ◆ Our Blessed Mother
- ◆ The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- ◆ The sacredness of life
- ◆ Heaven