

REACH Kids Say the Darndest Things

At the 9:15 AM Children's Mass Fr. Mike read the Gospel about how Jesus cured ten lepers. This is the story that ends with only one leper coming back to thank Jesus who then asks "Where are the other nine?"

Fr. Mike asked the children, "Who knows what a leper is?"

An enthusiastic hand shot up and a boy answered, "I know. I know. It's like a tiger!"

Undeterred, Fr. Mike next asked, "When only one healed leper came back and said thank you to Jesus, what did Jesus say?"

Another boy jumped up: "He said, 'You're welcome.'"

A third grade REACH class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to talk about the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was.

Jennifer raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

At the 10:30 AM REACH Mass Fr. Mike was explaining the Advent wreath. He asked, "What is this Advent wreath made of?"

A young girl quickly looked over at the wreath and immediately answered, "Fake evergreen."

The second grade REACH teacher asked her class, "Why should you be quiet in church?"

A little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping?"

For his homily at the children's 10:30 AM REACH Mass Fr. Dave used a folded sheet of poster paper to create a huge "greeting card" that said, "Dear Children, Please take up your cross." He asked one fourth grade girl to read the card.

Fr. Dave had spaced the words on the card a little poorly so the young girl read loudly: "Dear Children, up your cross."

After the Gospel in Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches," Fr. Mike asked the students, "Where do grapes come from?"

Hands shot up. Fr. Mike called on a young boy who confidently replied, "From Stew Leonard's."

When one otherwise excellent student strongly refused to go to the Lenten Reconciliation Service for all fourth graders, the fourth grade REACH teacher was puzzled, so he asked, "Why won't you go?"

"Because," she said, "my mom took me last week, and I'm all out of sins."

At a First Eucharist Mass a REACH helper was surprised to see a young girl frowning after she had just received Communion for the first time. She asked the girl, "Mary, are you having a problem?"

The little girl was on the verge of tears when she explained, "Jesus is stuck on the roof of my mouth."

The REACH second-graders were learning about the Act of Contrition when one boy asked, "Why is it called *tricking* if we are supposed to be apologizing?"

"Why do you think there is *tricking* in the Act of Contrition?" asked the teacher.

The young boy replied, "Because it's called an Act of *Contrickshun*."

Reviewing the Ten Commandments with his fifth grade REACH class, the teacher came to the Sixth Commandment, always a tough one to cover with young children. He incautiously asked, "Who knows what adultery is?"

A boy began frantically waving his hand, calling out, "I do, I do."

"Okay," the teacher said, with some trepidation, "what does it mean?"

Beaming with pride, the boy replied, "It's when you use a bow and arrow."

The teacher explained that was archery.

The Gospel was about *The Good Shepherd* at the 9:15 Children's Mass one Sunday morning. During the gathering around the altar done by the children during the homily, Fr. Mike asked if anyone knew what a shepherd was.

One six-year-old replied decisively, "Sure! It's a dog."

The third-grade REACH teacher was teaching her class about the Sacrament of Baptism and asked, "Where in the church do Baptisms take place?"

An enthusiastic student replied, "In the Holy Bathtub!"