

PRAY FOR THEM.

- Specifically pray for the intentions they write down or say in class.
- Pray each day for a different student in the classroom by name when you are at home or work.
- Have a space that they can submit their prayers, whether in secret on a piece of paper/journal, on the board, or outloud.

INVITE THEM DEEPER.

- Familiarize yourself with the opportunities that your parish and the Diocese are offering.
- Have the youth minister share information to youth or have handouts to be passed out during each session.
- As you listen to their interests and needs, start inviting youth to be a part of the larger parish. Example: A youth who loves acting would make a great proclaimer. A youth who loves to sing would make a great choir member.
- If opportunities do not exist, do not be afraid to talk with the DRE, Faith Formation Committee, Worship Committee, or Parish Council to help create “places” for youth in the life of the parish. After listening to the youth, you will have a great sense of their “needs” so be assured you can be a wonderful voice for them.
- FYI: Be careful during these times of advocacy not to volunteer youth for the “menial” jobs that the parish has a hard time finding help for.

ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP.

- Relationships are a two way road. Show youth you value and trust them so ask for volunteers to take turns preparing a prayer (middle school/high school) or have show-and-tell about a faith object they have at home (elementary).



Diocese of
Green Bay

For more information or additional copies of this booklet, please contact the Education Department at education@gbdioc.org.

HOW TO BE

Relational

IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSROOM

“

POPE FRANCIS

Even when the task seems too much, the resources too few, the obstacles too great, it should never be forgotten that yours is a holy work. The Holy Spirit is present wherever the name of Christ is proclaimed. He is in our midst whenever we lift up our hearts and minds to God in prayer. He will give you the light and strength you need! The message you bring will take root all the more firmly in people’s hearts if you are not only a teacher but also a witness. Your example should speak to everyone of the beauty of prayer, the power of mercy and forgiveness, the joy of sharing in the Eucharist with all our brothers and sisters.

”

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT | DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

HOW TO BE RELATIONAL IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSROOM

GREET EVERY STUDENT THAT ENTERS YOUR CLASS AND MAKE THEM FEEL LOVED.

- Welcome them by name.
- Smile at them because it brings you joy that they are there!
- Make sure to thank them for coming. Let them know that we are so happy they are with us.
- Ask them about how they are doing.
- Ask them about their interests: Did you just come from soccer practice? How did prom go last weekend? How is practice for the musical going? How was the weekend at the track meet?
- Ask them how they prefer to learn or what they want out of the group for the year. Let them know they have input and can help provide direction.

BREAK THE ICE.

- Experience life together. Have fun.
- Tell a funny or memorable story about yourself.
- Be open to unstructured times together.

LET THE STUDENTS KNOW YOU ARE HUMAN!

- Talk about your interests.
- Share a funny story, grace, blessing, challenge of your week.
- Share how the religious information for that week is relevant to you, your desires, your life, and how it has impacted the way you live.
- Share the difficult moments. Don't pretend that your life is perfect, always has been and always will be. Just because we work/volunteer for the Church doesn't mean our life is easy and we don't have to dedicate time for our own faith and prayer life.

HAVE THE STUDENTS SHARE ABOUT THEMSELVES!

- Have them write down their name, 3 interests, 3 fears, 3 questions they have about the faith, and 3 personal prayer intentions.
- Do a fun, community building activity at the beginning of the year.
- To break the group open, share yourself first by sharing a story of your own daily life each week. Keep it simple and natural.
- Do check-ins with the students. This doesn't have to be planned or formal. Depending on the faith level of the students ask different questions: What was the best part of your week? Where did God work in your life this week? Anything happen at school this week? What was the most challenging part of your week?

THE LITTLE THINGS MATTER.

- Write a small note to them and put it at their place in class.
- Bring the class a treat.
- Let them know you prayed for their test last week.
- Tell them you are here for them if they pray for an intention that seems to weigh heavy on their heart.
- Say hi to them at the grocery store or other community events.
- Attend the events they are part of - sports games, plays, etc.

GET TO KNOW THE PARENTS.

- Write them a letter in the beginning of the year.
- Send them notes about how much you enjoy having their son/daughter in class.
- Invite them into class or for a special project.
- Pray for them.

“ THANK YOU TO ALL TEACHERS: EDUCATING IS AN IMPORTANT MISSION, WHICH DRAWS YOUNG PEOPLE TO WHAT IS GOOD, BEAUTIFUL AND TRUE. - POPE FRANCIS