

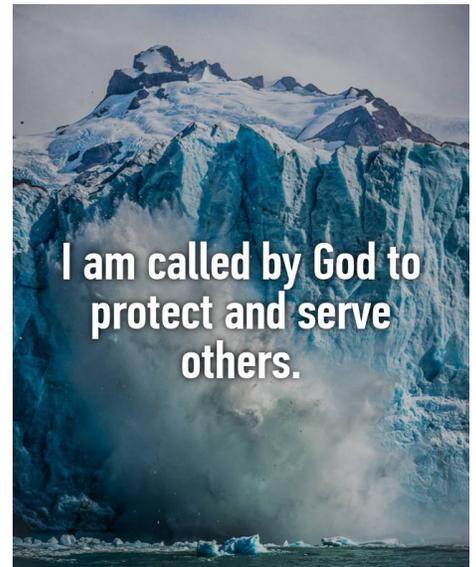
# Saint Boniface Parish

## Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### **Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."



## How am I called to charitably correct my brothers and sisters?

#### **First Grade**

What is something that you do wrong a lot and your mom and dad are always correcting you about? Why do you think that they are always correcting you about that thing? When was a time that you had to correct someone else and tell them the right way to do something? Did you do it in a loving way or did you yell at them?

#### **Second Grade**

We don't usually like to be corrected when we make a mistake, but we need to be if we are going to fix our mistakes. When you make a mistake, how would you want the person to let you know and help you fix it? Is that the way that you usually act when someone else does something wrong and you need to correct them? How can you change how you correct people?

#### **Third and Fourth Grades**

It can be easy to get mad at other people when we do not get our way or the things that we want. In those times, how do you usually react? Are you calm and talk with the person or do you yell and scream at them? Why is it better to love someone and talk calmly when they are wrong instead of yelling at them to get your way?

#### **Fifth and Sixth Grades**

As we get older, we have more and more rules to follow. Do you always follow them all perfectly, or do you mess up sometimes? What rules are hard for you to follow? What rules are hard for your friends and family to follow? How can you lovingly talk with them about the right thing to do? What can you say to them that will help them without yelling at them?

#### **Seventh and Eighth Grades**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to talk with another person about their faults one-on-one without others around. When you need to talk with someone about something, they did wrong, do you wait until you are alone or embarrass them in front of others? Have you been embarrassed before? What happened? Do you want to make others feel that way?

#### **High School and Adults**

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that wherever two or more are gathered in His name, He will be there with them. How often do you gather your family together in Jesus name? When are the times that you have your family pray together? When, in the next week, could you pray with someone else? How can praying together help in difficult times?

# For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

## Monday

It is usually pretty easy to think of all of the things that other people are doing wrong. However, before we start pointing out other people's wrongs, we should take time to look at our own. Today, take ten to fifteen minutes to reflect on your own sins and ask God for forgiveness. Then schedule a time when you will go to Confession.

## Tuesday

Although family are the most important people in our lives, at times, they can be the most difficult to talk with because we have to see them every day and live with them. Who are you closest to in your family and who did you not get along with? Today, choose one issue that you have been wanting to talk about with a family member. Ask God for help and be bold.

## Wednesday

We often find friends easy to love and talk with, but it can still be easy to avoid difficult topics. However, if we truly love our friends, then we also need to find loving ways to talk with them when they are doing something wrong. Who are the first people that you need to talk with? Today, choose one friend that you can talk with about a difficult issue, and start praying for them.

## Thursday

Sunday's Gospel reminded us that the person that we talk with will not always listen to us and tells us to find other people to bring with when we talk with them. Today, as you continue to pray for the friend that you will talk with, find a common friend or two that you can bring with you when you talk with the friend that needs correction.

## Friday

At some point you will need to actually have the difficult conversation with your friend and lovingly correct them. Today is that day! Today, contact your friend and set a time to meet with them so that you can talk with them. They may try to put you off but schedule a time. While you are talking stay calm and remember to continue to ask God for His help.

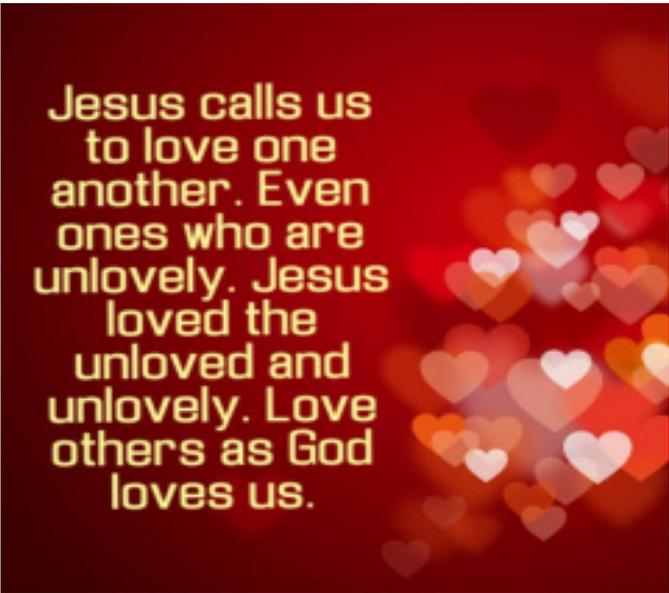
## Saturday

After you talk with them, your friend may understand, or they may be angry. Either way, it is important that you continue to love them and pray for them, because God can help them in many more ways than we can. Prayer is never an empty gesture, but the most loving act we can do. Today, keep your friend in prayer all day, asking God to be with them as often as you can.

## FROM THE CATECHISM...

The fruits of charity are joy, peace, and mercy; charity demands beneficence and fraternal correction; it is benevolence; it fosters reciprocity and remains disinterested and generous; it is friendship and communion: Love is itself the fulfillment of all of our works. There is the goal; that is why we run: we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1829



Jesus calls us to love one another. Even ones who are unlovely. Jesus loved the unloved and unlovely. Love others as God loves us.

## Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Use the calendar on the right.

**Sirach 27:30-28:7 Psalm 103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12 Romans 14:7-9 Matthew 18:21-35**

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email [admin@lynncatholic.org](mailto:admin@lynncatholic.org)