



MY SALVATION HISTORY PROJECT

FEP GRADES 6-8

DUE: FEBRUARY 15, 2012

During the 2011-2012 FEP year your son or daughter has been studying and reflecting on the basic elements of Catholic beliefs. We are exploring who God is, how he has revealed himself to us and continues to do so, as well as our faithful response to God and his plan for our salvation. Not only are we looking at what the Catholic Church teaches, but we are also examining how we can live our lives in accordance with our faith. At the end of this trimester, the participants will present a project in their classrooms called "My Salvation History."

The term *salvation history* refers to the pattern of events in human history that exemplifies God's presence and saving actions. Most notably this includes events such as God's promise to Abraham, Moses and the Israelites' crossing the Red Sea, and the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. In a similar way, God acts in each of our own lives through events and people with whom we come into contact.

The objective of this project is to give students the opportunity to express how they have experienced God's presences and saving actions through the events and people in their lives.

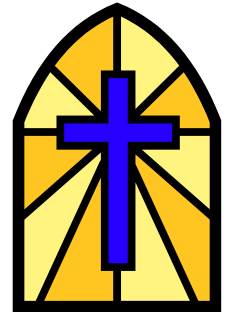
Students will be provided with in-class resources as well as a portion of several class times to complete their projects. However, because parent support and encouragement is so essential as the young people explore and celebrate all the gifts God has given them, **a portion of preparation for this project should take place at home.**

Projects will be presented to peers during regularly scheduled class time on February 15 and will be displayed for parents at our family FEP year-end celebration event on April 18.

We are very excited about this project! It is not meant to be "homework," but an opportunity for kids to combine their creativity with God's Word. Mixing those two things together with family support, can only lead to amazing results! Thank you for making this project a priority in your family.

Kate Buri
Director Middle School Faith Enrichment Program

MY SALVATION HISTORY PROJECT OPTIONS



A Family Tree

- ❖ We can often learn a lot about ourselves by looking back at our families. Learning about our past helps us to learn about who we are and who we might become. Certainly a large part of everyone's personal salvation history can be linked with the history of his or her family. To some degree the Bible is the history of families. Two of the Gospels—Matthew and Luke—use genealogies to tell us about Jesus Christ.

A Timeline

- ❖ Someone's personal salvation history can also be presented in the form of a timeline. Rather than a long list of unconnected events, this timeline would show how people and events played an important part in the growth and development of a person or group of people. It can show how God played a role in both the happy and sad moments of life. It could also show how early events are connected, or even the causes of later ones. It can show young people their place in the bigger picture and how decisions made in their youth play a role in their adulthood.

Written History

- ❖ Some participants might enjoy writing a history. The Scriptures are full of histories that remind people of who they are and from where they came. The scriptural events are a reminder to the people that God is not a distant observer, but the One who is involved and acts within our lives.

People

- ❖ One of the most direct ways we can experience God is through one another. Saint Paul calls the Christian community the Body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:27). The participants could express how God has acted in their lives through a number of descriptions or stories about the people who have loved, inspired, or encouraged them. Encourage your child to write about people they know personally, but also remind them that they can write about saints they studied throughout the course.

Art

- ❖ For centuries, art was often the way the events of salvation history were depicted for Church members. Many Catholics throughout the centuries have been unable to read, so the stained-glass windows of the European churches and cathedrals offered them visual accounts of God's actions in the world. Some of the participants will find artistic expression a more fitting means, especially if some events are too difficult to describe in a literal manner.