

THE PARACLETE

WHAT WE DID FREE TOTAL FAITHFUL FRUITFUL

The purpose of this lesson is to present chastity as the path to authentic love and to introduce the Theology of the Body Principles to this age group. We want to show how the personal expressions of authentic love mirror (truly yet imperfectly) the love of the Blessed Trinity - that we are, indeed, made in the image and likeness of God. For teens, the virtue of chastity is best interpreted not as a prohibition (avoid sex) but as an invitation (seek and reflect real love to others out of love for God). At the same time, we must offer practical applications to help them distinguish between authentic love and cultural counterfeits (e.g., lust). Objectives of this lesson: 1. Understand that God created us as sexual beings, and chastity is the path to authentic love. (CCC 2331). 2. Discuss ways the world often confuses lust with love. (CCC 2527-2532) 3. Understand the Church's teachings on sexuality within the context of God's plan for all of us to experience true and authentic love. (CCC 2370,2396) 4. Understand that while sexual sin has serious consequences, God's grace is available for those who want to experience authentic love and joy. (CCC 1468, 1695).

- Parent Resources:
- chastity.com,
- tobinstitute.org, theologyofthebody.net
- thecultureproject.org

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

- Think of some of your favorite songs. Choose one that has lyrics dealing with a relationship. Look at the lyrics and consider the tone of the message. Does this song reflect a Christian understanding of secularity? Why or why not?
- Chastity is about more than not having sex. It's about loving rightly. How can you put this into practice this week? How can you, as a young man or young woman, do something to honor the opposite sex?

CAR & DINNER CONVO

- If so many teens want true love, why do you think so many settle for unloving relationships?
- Why do you think it is so hard for some people to be faithful?
- What is unsafe about "safe" Sex? Look beyond STDs & pregnancy risks to the emotional, spiritual, & relational consequences of sexual activity.)
- How can learning to grow in "free, total, faithful, and fruitful" love prepare you for a future vocation?

SAINT FOR THE JOURNEY

ST. AGNES

Lived: 291-304

Feast Day: January 21

Patron Saint of: of young girls, chastity, rape survivors, and the Children of Mary



St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death! Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse." According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower. In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!" In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy. It is said he condemned the young girl to be dragged through the streets naked. Some versions of the legend state that Agnes' hair grew instantly to cover her entire body and all the men who attempted to rape the beautiful virgin were immediately struck blind. At first, Agnes was tied to a stake, but either the wood would not burn or the flames parted away from her. This prompted an officer to draw his sword and behead the girl. She died a virgin-martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on 21 January 304. Agnes was buried beside the Via Nomentana in Rome. Her bones are currently conserved beneath the high altar in the church of Sant'Angese fuori le mura in Rome, which was built over the catacomb that held her tomb. Her skull is preserved in the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone in Rome's Piazza Navona.

St. Agnes, Pray for us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

OVERDUE - All forms for 8th Grade Students Due Dec 31st
Jan 11th - Free, Total, Faithful, Fruitful
Jan 14th - 8th Grade Retreat
Jan 18th - Kids Food Basket Service Night
Jan 25th - Where is God Calling me?
Feb 1st - How does God speak to me?