



St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 3

Week 9

2016

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

www.stoliversharrisparc.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 9682 1244

Care of Creation

On the 1st September, Pope Francis added the 'care of creation' to the traditional sets of both the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. He proposes that we think of our relationship with the world and with all people in terms of CARING. The use of the word CARE intimates that we are called to a more intimate relationship with creation. For if we care, we are connected. To care is to allow ourselves to be affected by another, so much so that our priorities and actions change.

As a corporal work of mercy, Pope Francis said that the care of creation "requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness and makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world." How does this speak to us? It can be as simple as monitoring our energy consumption. It can also include things like purchasing fair-trade products, planting natives and succulents in our gardens to restrict water use, advocating for public policies that address the needs of "our common home".



As a spiritual work of mercy, care for creation "calls for a grateful contemplation of God's world which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us." Do we show gratitude for the gifts of clean air, land and water where it is available? Do we take time out of our busy days to create spaces of silence when we can sit in awe of God's beautiful artistry?

Care of creation is our responsibility and we must take it seriously. In Pope Francis' words: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

Anne Ferguson, Mission Animation, Parramatta

Image: Sherman Geronimo-Tan (Free to use: CC BY 2.0)

Thursday Assembly prayer – Galadriel Year 3

Dear God

Praise:

Thank you for giving your life and thank you for helping us in our lives.

Repent:

I'm sorry I turn around in church and show my back to you. I will always face you with love.

Ask:

Thank you for helping my friends when they are hurt. Thank you for making me better when I am sick and thank you for all the good things in life that you do for us.

Yes:

Thank you for giving me my life. **Amen**



Parenting the family underdog

By Michael Grose

Raising talented kids is relatively easy, but parenting children and young people who struggle can be a significant parenting challenge. Here are some ideas to keep in mind if you are parenting a child for whom success at school, sport and other common childhood activities just doesn't come naturally.



1 Be your child's cheerleader

Kids who have to work really hard to achieve need someone in their lives who is able to boost their self-confidence, particularly when they are struggling. Make a fuss over small successes so they can puff up their chests every now and then.

2 Focus your comments on contribution, improvement and effort

It's difficult praising kids when the results aren't there but you can always focus your comments on their contribution to the team. Focus on things improvements shown in reading or the effort they are making at art.

3 Remember that persistence pays off

Children who persist learn an important life lesson – that is, success in most endeavours takes effort. Those kids who sail through their childhoods without raising a sweat can struggle when eventually they do have to work long and hard to succeed.

4 Help kids identify their strengths

Kids are like niche marketers – they define themselves by their strengths. “I am a good reader” or “I'm sporty” or “I'm really good at art” are some of the labels kids will use. As they move into adolescence the number of options for success opens up, so help them find one or two areas that they enjoy and can easily achieve success in.

5 Don't put kids on pedestals

It is difficult living in the shadow of a superstar so avoid making a huge fuss over the achievements of a particular child – it makes life difficult for those who follow. Recognise results but balance that by focusing equally on the efforts of the others as well. Raising kids who find life a breeze is easy. However, parenting the underdog who takes longer to mature or who must put in 110 per cent effort to achieve is challenging for any parent. It requires parents to focus on kids' strengths, be liberal with encouragement and have realistic but positive expectations for success.