
BLACK AND WHITE

An Edge Social Night

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge your son or daughter began the series *Choices* which dives into the basics of morality, society, and social justice. The Edge Night was primarily social and began with a fun game where the youth were challenged to take the best black and white photo. They also had the opportunity to play a “Would You Rather” game that led them in different directions towards different snacks. The teaching was a “Would You Rather” game with the Core Members and a brief teaching about decision making. The youth had an opportunity to think about some of the decisions they have made in life and how those decisions affect their lives still today. The Edge Night ended with a short biography and prayer for the intercession of St. Eustachius (or St. Eustace).

Main Ideas:

- In our lives we are faced with decisions every single day.
- Learning to make good decisions is one of the greatest skills you could ever possess because the decisions we make each and every day affect the outcome of our lives.
- The reality is that our decisions will ultimately determine our eternal destiny. Each of us has complete control over whether we accept the grace of God and live a life that gets us to heaven or we deny God and follow the road to hell.

Catechism Reference:

“Freedom makes man a moral subject. When he acts deliberately, man is, so to speak, the father of his acts. Human acts, that is, acts that are freely chosen in consequence of a judgment of conscience, can be morally evaluated. They are either good or evil.” (CCC 1749)

Scripture Reference:

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.’” (John 14:6)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What are some decisions you make on a daily basis on your own?
- What are some decisions we make together as a family?
- How do these decisions affect our lives?
- What are some things we could choose to do better as a family?
- What was your favorite part about the Edge Night?

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter played an activity of a fast-paced game of ships and sailors in which the youth were challenged to correctly respond to a set of instructions. The teaching broke open the topic of morality by discussing freedom and how we can determine the moral quality of our actions. The youth then split into their small groups to walk through scenarios and figure out whether a good decision or bad decision was made. The Edge Night ended with a guided reflection on the Beatitudes.

Main Ideas:

- God created us with free will so that we would have the freedom to choose to love Him and follow Him in our daily lives.
- Morality is not just a set of rules for us to follow. It is more about what Jesus wants for us rather than what He wants from us.
- We can determine the moral quality of our actions by looking at the object, intention, and circumstance of each situation.

Catechism Reference:

“The way of Christ ‘leads to life’; a contrary way ‘leads to destruction.’ The Gospel parable of the two ways remains ever present in the catechesis of the Church; it shows the importance of moral decisions for our salvation: ‘There are two ways, the one of life, the other of death; but between the two, there is a great difference.’” (CCC 1696)

Scripture Reference:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What stood out to you the most during this Edge Night? Why?
- You have the choice to decide which way your life goes. How does that make you feel?
- Why would you want to choose to follow Christ? What kind of life do you have when you follow Him and do what is good?
- What do you think would happen if you didn’t follow Christ? What kind of life do you have when you do what is bad?
- What did you learn tonight about making decisions? How do you know if your decision is a good one?
- How do your emotions play into decision making?
- How can we as a family work together to help you form your conscience and thus know how to better make right decisions?

BUILD UP OR BREAK DOWN

An Edge Night on Virtue and Sin

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge your son or daughter had the opportunity to play a game that involved building something and then destroying it. The teaching dove into the different virtues as well as what sin is and the varying degrees of sin. Your child then had an opportunity to discuss and discern virtues in real life. The Edge Night ended with a reflection on the will of God and how to live a virtuous life through the guidance of an examination of conscience.

Main Ideas:

- All of us are called to live lives of virtue which is “a habitual and firm disposition to do the good.” Someone who lives a virtuous life performs good acts and gives the best of him or herself. A virtuous person tends towards what is good, chooses what is good, and does good things through concrete actions. (CCC 1803)
- Sin is an offense against reason and truth. It goes against our very creation and is a failure to love God and our neighbors. It stems from unhealthy attachment to certain goods and it wounds the nature of a person and the community he or she lives in. (CCC 1849)
- It is up to us to choose whether to live a virtuous or a sinful life. It is up to us, with the help of the Church, to form our consciences and to learn what is right and wrong in the moral life.

Catechism Reference:

“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.’ A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.” (CCC 1803)

Scripture Reference:

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What virtues did you learn about at Edge?
- How do the virtues help us in our daily life?
- What did you learn about the two types of sin, mortal and venial sin?
- What does Christ offer to help us when we commit sin?
- Why is it important for us to continue to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

BOUNDARIES

An Edge Night on the Law

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter played a ruleless dodgeball game to contrast that having rules leads to joy, freedom, and safety instead of chaos, confusion, and frustration when there are no rules. The teaching examined the three aspects of the moral law — natural law, the Old Law, and the New Law — and how all three work together to guide and lead us to true freedom and charity. The youth then read the Ten Commandments, and created a skit based on one of the Ten Commandments. At the end of the Edge Night, the youth had an opportunity to reflect on what sins and habits may be keeping them from experiencing the freedom God has for them.

Main Ideas:

- God, in His goodness, has given us the moral law so that we may be truly free and live a life of love that ultimately leads to heaven.
- The Old Law, although imperfect, builds upon the natural law and prepares us for the Law of the Gospel.
- The Law of the Gospel, or the New Law, is a law of love, of grace, and of freedom, which is meant to dwell deep within each of us so that we may always act in sincere Christian charity.

Catechism Reference:

“The natural law, present in the heart of each man and established by reason, is universal in its precepts and its authority extends to all men. It expresses the dignity of the person and determines the basis for his fundamental rights and duties: For there is a true law: right reason. It is in conformity with nature, is diffused among all men, and is immutable and eternal; its orders summon to duty; its prohibitions turn away from offense . . . To replace it with a contrary law is a sacrilege; failure to apply even one of its provisions is forbidden; no one can abrogate it entirely.” (CCC 1956)

Scripture Reference:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Family Reflection Questions:

- Why does God give us laws?
- Why is it important for us to follow those laws?
- Are there certain laws that are a part of our human nature? What is one example of this?
- What was different about the New Law of Jesus?
- How does Jesus help us to follow the laws given to us by God?

POWER UP

An Edge Night on Grace, Justification, and the Church

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter played a racing game with a twist that shows them the power of grace. The teaching taught the youth about God's initiation of salvation and our response of participation in His grace and touches on the precepts of the Catholic Church, which offer a starting point for that participation. The youth then had time to talk specifically about how they can actively participate in the Divine Life of God. At the end of the Edge Night, the youth were reminded that Jesus takes on our sins and reconciles us, concluding with Veneration of the Cross.

Main Ideas:

- Jesus died and rose from the dead for our salvation. It is by His grace that we may enter heaven.
- In order to receive the free gift of grace, all that is required is our participation; we must respond to God's call.
- The precepts of the Catholic Church give us a starting point for participation in the Divine Life of God.

Catechism Reference:

"The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor: ... 'You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor' ... 'You shall confess your sins at least once a year' ... 'You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season' ... 'You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church' ... 'You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church' ..." (CCC 2041-2043)

Scripture Reference:

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What did Jesus do for us when He died on the cross?
- What is grace? How does it work in our lives?
- Which precepts of the Church stood out to you the most?
- What did you learn about living out your Catholic faith in your daily life?

WORKING TOGETHER

An Edge Night on Society

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter played a game where they were challenged to guess what song their opponent was singing. The teaching discussed the necessity of society and authority as well as the importance of their participation in society. The youth then discussed what they learned and the Edge Night ended with each small group making rosaries and praying for those most in need.

Main Ideas:

- “Society” is defined as a group of people united as more than just a bunch of individuals. (CCC 1880)
- The government exists to help everyone to follow the rules and leads society towards the common good of all people. (CCC 1897)
- As members of society it is important that we respect the authorities that have been put in place to help us all achieve the common good.

Catechism Reference:

“A society is a group of persons bound together organically by a principle of unity that goes beyond each one of them. As an assembly that is at once visible and spiritual, a society endures through time: it gathers up the past and prepares for the future. By means of society, each man is established as an ‘heir’ and receives certain ‘talents’ that enrich his identity and whose fruits he must develop. He rightly owes loyalty to the communities of which he is part and respect to those in authority who have charge of the common good.” (CCC 1880)

Scripture Reference:

“Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it.” (Luke 17:33)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What community or groups are you a part of?
- What community or groups is our family a part of?
- Why is it important for all the people of these groups to work together?
- Why is it important for people of our society to work together to help each other? What sort of needs do people have?
- What was your prayer intention for the end of the Edge Night?

MY NEIGHBOR

An Edge Night on Social Justice

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter got to participate in an activity to explore our similarities and differences. The teaching presented the basic concepts of social justice, human dignity, and the importance of solidarity. The youth then had an opportunity to take a look at different ways they can help people in need and explore what it means to be a modern day Good Samaritan. At the end of the Edge Night the youth prayed for people in need and thought about how they can make positive changes in the lives of those people.

Main Ideas:

- Society at large is responsible for upholding the rights and dignity of humankind. It should ensure and provide conditions for the human person to live his or her life in accord with his or her dignity and vocation. This is a part of what we call “social justice” which ensures that the common good is upheld by the proper exercise of authority. (CCC 1928)
- The problems in society that leave people on the fringes or without enough to survive can only be solved through solidarity between all people from all walks of life. (CCC 1941)
- As baptized Christians, we are all a part of God’s family, and, therefore, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Since we are all brothers and sisters, Jesus calls us to love one another, encourage one another, and build one another up.

Catechism Reference:

“Society ensures social justice when it provides the conditions that allow associations or individuals to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and their vocation. Social justice is linked to the common good and the exercise of authority.” (CCC 1928)

Scripture Reference:

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

Family Reflection Questions:

- Where do all human beings get their dignity and worth? Can it ever be taken away? Why?
- What are we supposed to do when we see other people who are in need or are lacking in the basic needs for daily life?
- Why is it important to also care for people spiritually?
- What does it mean that we are all a part of the body of Christ?
- What can we do as a family to help those in need?

GO FORTH

An Edge Issue Night on Community Service

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge your son or daughter had the opportunity to participate in a service project. The youth began in prayer together and then performed the needed duties for the location. After they had an opportunity to serve, they gathered back together for a brief group discussion. The Edge Night ended with a unique prayer experience where the youth recognized how they were the hands of Christ and then they offered up all their good works to God.

Catechism Reference:

“Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that ‘everyone should look upon his neighbor (without any exception) as ‘another self,’ above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity.’ No legislation could by itself do away with the fears, prejudices, and attitudes of pride and selfishness which obstruct the establishment of truly fraternal societies. Such behavior will cease only through the charity that finds in every man a ‘neighbor,’ a brother.” (CCC 1931)

Scripture Reference:

“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What was your favorite aspect of your service project?
- What was the most challenging aspect of the service project?
- How did you reflect the hands of Christ?
- What can we do as a family to continue to serve those in need around us?