

My bearer of blessing is a messenger of Jesus Christ



To highlight the importance of a good relationship with our spiritual leaders, we review the previous three lessons. The most important spiritual leaders for our children are the rector, the Priest and the Sunday-school teachers. In summarizing, we emphasize how the Lord Jesus approached and treated people in need of help.

The ministers emulate Jesus' example. Their ministry empowers and commissions them to care for God's children.

8

The children sense the Priests' connection to the Apostles of Jesus and, through them, to the Lord. They are encouraged to approach their Priest with all their problems.

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Matthew needs advice

Matthew has a guilty conscience. He was playing ball yesterday and broke a window. He ran away as quickly as he could—no one had noticed anything. But now Matthew gets a fright each time the bell rings: "They've found me, now it'll all come out!" he thinks. He is so worried that he cannot even laugh at anything any more. He would gladly tell his mother about it, but she had forbidden him to play there all along. She would most certainly say: "But I warned you, didn't I!" And his father? Actually he had wanted to tell his father straight away, but then there had been no time. Now Matthew is at a loss what to do. "Such a window pane would definitely cost a lot of money," he thinks worriedly.

On Sunday he musters all his courage and tells the whole story to the Priest in Sunday-school. The Priest does not scold him at all but says: "I am happy that you trust me and have confided in me. Do you realize that your guilty conscience is actually a good sign? It shows that you know the difference between right and wrong. We will pray together so that you may find the courage to put things right. Would you like me to go home with you?" No, Matthew wants to try and do this by himself. Now that he

has discussed it all with the Priest, it doesn't seem so difficult any more.

The following Sunday Matthew is laughing again. He tells the Priest that everything has been settled. His father had scolded him only a little; he had actually praised him for being honest. Gratefully, Matthew looks into the Priest's eyes. He notices that the Priest is smiling. Perhaps he is remembering that he, too, broke a window-pane in his childhood?

A prayer for Andrea

Andrea is running a fever. She has had to remain in bed for several days. Actually she could have been well already. Her mother had said to her on the first day: "Andrea, if you stay in bed for a few days, you'll soon be well again." But bed is such a boring place, and to stay there all day is not easy, especially when the other children are playing outside and it would be such fun to join them. Andrea just can't resist it. Instead of staying in bed, she sneaks to the window again and again, opens it and watches the goings-on outside. When she hears her mother outside her bedroom door, she quickly jumps back into bed, but Mother of course notices what she is up to. She sighs and says: "Andrea, you are so impatient. I'm sure you have caught cold again. The fever will never go down this way." Andrea is ashamed, but it is so boring in bed.

Mother was right of course. That evening Andrea is once again

Jesus Christ is everybody's friend

hot and flushed, her eyes bright and feverish. She can hardly eat anything as swallowing is very difficult and painful. Mother has to give her some more of that terrible medicine and says: "I am really worried about you. If only you were a little more sensible! This evening our Priest is visiting us. You will have to stay in bed, but I am sure he'll look in on you. I'd be happy if you were to tell him the whole story. Will you do that?" Andrea nods. She likes the Priest; he always has time for her. When he comes into her room that evening with her parents, she looks at him expectantly. He sits down beside her and enquires how she is feeling. Andrea tells him quite honestly that she got out

of bed quite often to stand at the window. The Priest says: "I can understand that very well. It is not easy to be patient. Come, we will ask the Lord to help you to become more patient." Together they pray for patience: the Priest, Father, Mother and Andrea. Now the little girl feels happy again. Andrea resolves to persevere from now on and only to get up when her mother allows her to do so. When the adults wish her a good night, she is already half asleep.

3



Jesus Christ also blesses today. He comforts and heals. He teaches us and forgives us our sins. He cares for us.

- 1 We look at the pictures of the last three lessons with the children and ask them what has particularly impressed them.
We then look at the photographs that show us the work done by the Priests. We can discuss the captions.
- 2 By means of simple questions we encourage the children to talk about their bearers of blessing. What are their names? What have you experienced with them? Do you know what a Priest does? (They bless, comfort, forgive sins by the commission of their Apostle, perform other ministerial tasks ...)
In the following stories we try to illustrate the work of a Priest as seen by children. (The relating of own experiences would be very welcome.)
- 3 Wherever possible, we obtain a photograph of each child's rector which they paste in the book. They may draw a decorative frame around it. Underneath we write the rector's name.