



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle A B C

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Lectionary #671

Reading I: Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12

The prophet is speaking words of hope for the nation of Israel as they continue to be held in captivity by the Babylonians. Ezekiel speaks of a restoration of the temple in Jerusalem, which is the mightiest symbol of the nation of Israel. It is the symbol that speaks of the **community** that will be restored in abundance. The imagery is rich and filled with hope for a **community** to be re-established and restored. Coupled with this restoration is the fact that Israel will be healed so that they may once again be the **community** they have been called to be.

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17

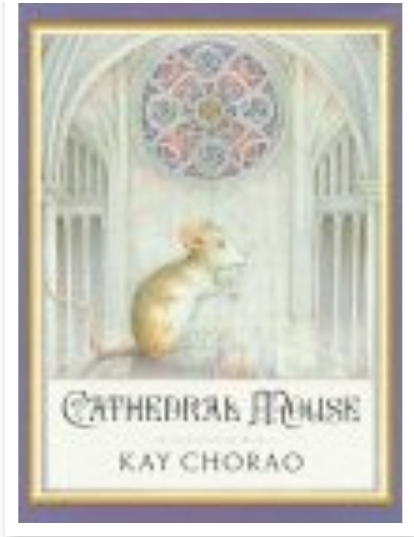
This reading is particularly fitting for the feast that celebrates the cathedral church of Rome, Saint John Lateran. The feast celebrates a significant building that symbolizes **community**. The church is, after all, a **community** of people and goes well beyond any physical structure made of inanimate materials. Saint Paul tells the believing **community** at Corinth that they are *God's building*, and that their (and our) foundation is Jesus Christ. This celebration of the Pope's church is truly celebrating the hearts and souls that the four walls of a church building encompasses and the oneness of a **community**. For an authentic Christian **community** to exist, it is crucial that Jesus Christ is the foundation.

Gospel: John 2: 13 - 22

This gospel passage from Saint John is referred to as the *Cleansing of the Temple*. Jesus is addressing not only the inappropriate and sacrilegious abuse of the holy space, the temple, but more importantly the abuse of those coming from great distances to make their offering. The money changers and the temple authorities are well aware that those wishing to make an offering are coming from great distances and thus will need to purchase their offerings upon their arrival. The temple officials take this opportunity to exact huge prices upon the people. Jesus will always strike out against injustice.



children's
story



The Cathedral Mouse

Written by Kay Chorao

Illustrated by Kay Chorao

Copyright 1988 Dutton Juvenile

ISBN-10: 052544009

ISBN-13: 978-0525444008



character
education
activity

Community is best defined as a group of people striving to be their best for themselves and for others. In Christian community, it is Jesus Christ who is our model of what it is to be community minded and oriented.

The Cathedral Mouse

Mouse is looking for a home, a real home where he will feel safe and have a sense of belonging. Mouse is chased from a meat market after his escape from a pet store. Mouse eventually finds himself in a cathedral but also finds that the other mice inhabiting the cathedral are not all that friendly and welcoming. All is not lost as he settles onto a high pillar and he finds that someone is providing him with bread and cheese to eat. Eventually he discovers where these meals are coming from and learns to trust a stone carver who provides him with the home he has always yearned and hoped for. The two characters in the story exemplify some of the critical elements of **community**. Most evident are the qualities of gentleness, patience and self-control (in the stone carver) and the joyfulness and bravery of the mouse.

Activity

Being in **community** has so much to do with being kind and thoughtful to one another.

Step One: Place a basket with strips of colorful construction paper and a dark marker at the classroom door. Each time a student does a good deed or performs an act of kindness that has been witnessed, the person and their witness may come forward and write that kindness on a strip of paper.

Step Two: The strip is then connected end to end by tape thus forming a chain link. These links would be added on to another to form a chain of **community** kindness. This chain will eventually weave its way around the room encompassing the perimeter of the classroom and may even need to make its way out of the classroom and down the hall.

Step Three: Referring to this chain link of **community** kindness may be a way to encourage kind actions or also to highlight the students' goodness. Each day may need to have a different reference to the chain.

Community is a group of people who love each other and are united through a common joy and purpose, sharing and living the story of Jesus Christ.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

One of the best ways for a child to learn about a sense of **community** is at the very basic level of the **community** they experience most closely, the family. It is essential for a child learn early on that to be a member of a family or **community**, they are not only to benefit from the family (**community**) but that they also have a responsibility to contribute to the family or **community**. With the help of their parents the child can develop some “coupons” of service and kindness that they may perform for their family. The coupons would include those tasks that:

1. a child would be able to do safely
2. make promises that they would be able to deliver
3. they would willingly do

Look Feel Know Act

Buildings are often symbols of a **community**. A building and **community** both must have a firm foundation on which to stand, and for the Christian **community** that foundation is Jesus Christ. Just as building materials contribute to a structure, so does the variety of people and their talents contribute to the building up of **community**. Knowing this it is important to ask ourselves how we can make our building (**community**) stronger, more beautiful and more welcoming to others.

Everyone, at the very core of their being, is looking for a **community** to belong to, to contribute to and to benefit from. On this Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica we can experience a sign and symbol of *belongingness*. In *The Cathedral Mouse*, Mouse was looking for a safe place to be, a place where he could belong and have a home. Jesus established the Church so that people could have a home and connectedness with God. The Church is called to be a safe haven in the midst of the world. The Church is constantly challenged by its foundation, Jesus Christ, to be exactly that. We are called to be at the service of one another just as Christ himself was. We are called to be there for one another. We are called always to draw a circle that includes one another and to do all we can to avoid placing someone outside the circle of the **community**.



**closing
tool**

Pray that you will always strive to see the richness and the beauty in the diverse people, cultures and faiths on the earth and to recognize that we are all called by our God to be community.



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together

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