



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



**ordinary
time**



**lectionary
reading**

Cycle B

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Lectionary # 165

Reading I: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

This excerpt from the book of Deuteronomy finds the nation of Israel at the end of their forty-year journey in the desert and on the brink of entering the Promised Land. It is a period of great anticipation for a group that has waited so long to arrive at their destination. Moses is recounting all that God has done for them because the group that he is speaking to is largely composed of the children born in the desert who, unlike their parents, do not have firsthand knowledge or experience of the enslavement in Egypt. Moses reminds them that God has shown absolute **fidelity** to them and that they are to live the virtue of **fidelity** to God. In those times, monotheism, the belief in one God, was a foreign concept to the Israelites and to the other nations of that region. In this passage from Deuteronomy, we hear of the One God who will remain faithful and who seeks **fidelity** from the people he has chosen as his own.

Reading 2: Romans 8:14-17

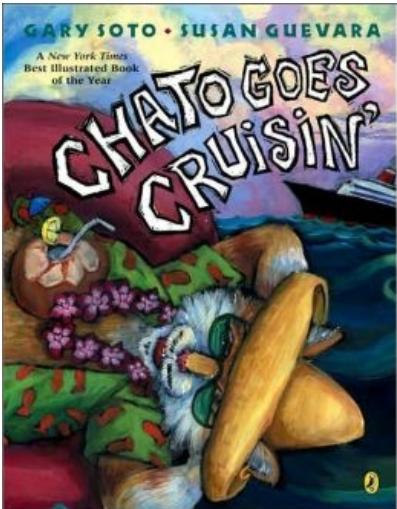
In this section of Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we hear the recurring theme of God's **fidelity** to us all things. We are assured of the closeness of God and God's **fidelity** when we are reminded that we may call upon God as *Abba, Father*. This passage reminds us that Christ's spirit inhabits us. Not only are we led by this spirit, but the spirit within us will draw us into deeper communion and **fidelity** with our God.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

This particular passage from Saint Matthew's Gospel is often referred to as the "Commissioning of the Disciples." Saint Matthew's Gospel concludes on a glorious and triumphant note. The eleven disciples join Jesus on the mountaintop as he sends them out to preach and teach. He speaks these words of **fidelity**: *And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.*



children's story



Chato Goes Cruisin'

Written by Gary Soto

Illustrated by Susan Guevara

Publication 2007, Puffin

ISBN-10: 0142408107

ISBN-13: 978-0142408100



character
education
activity

"Fides" is the Latin root for the word fidelity. It means faithfulness and dedication to remaining faithful despite the challenges of doing so.

Chato Goes Cruisin'

Chato, the main character of this story, enters a contest and wins a trip for two on a cruise ship. When he and his friend Novio Boy arrive at the dock, they see that the ship is filled with DOGS, but they decide to go anyways. The cruise is not at all what they had hoped for, with *fuchi comida* (stinky food) and silly games. However, when all the dogs get sick, the cats set off in a lifeboat to find help for their ailing canine friends. They sail past a catamaran filled with partying felines and are tempted to stop. But because they gave the captains of their ship their *palabra* (word), they continue on until a storm tosses them onto an island full of vacationing veterinarians, and the dogs are finally saved. The story is comical and speaks to the virtues of remaining true to one's word and living out the virtue of **fidelity**.

Activity: Faithfulness Can Mean Sacrifice

Step One: Remind the students of the sacrifice that Chato and Novio Boy made in order to help the dogs on the cruise ship. Encourage the students to think about different ways that they can make some type of sacrifice to help their family, friends, and even strangers. Explain to the students what the concept of brainstorming is, and then write down all the contributions from the students.

Step Two: Invite the students to vote on the top five suggestions that they think are achievable. Once they have chosen their top five, have them identify who they might provide these sacrifices for.

Step Three: Give the students a timeline to act out the five sacrifices they wish to make. When that time has passed, ask them to share stories regarding what they did, who the recipient of their kind sacrifice was, and how making the sacrifice made them feel.

Fidelity is essentially the act of keeping one's promise.



case study

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

What could you do today?

Recall the definition of **fidelity** and the fact that remaining faithful may involve sacrifices. As you think about this, you might want to recognize the sacrifices that family members or friends make or have made for you at different times. Gratitude is a very important virtue to practice, and it would be good to recognize the **fidelity** shown to you by others by designing a card and writing a thank you note to those people who have made sacrifices for you.

Look Feel Know Act

Think about a time when someone broke a promise to you. How did that feel? You might also recall a time when you broke a promise that you made to someone else. What effect do you think that had on them? What effect did breaking a promise have on you? How did it impact your relationship with that person?

Disappointment over broken promises can involve a number of different feelings, such as sadness and anger. Once you have recalled an event and the feelings that accompanied it, make a commitment to yourself and to God to strive to be a person of **fidelity**. Striving means trying your very best and knowing that there may be occasional failures. However, remember that a lot can be learned from failures. Ask Jesus to be with you so that you might be the friend that Jesus would be.

Fidelity is a virtue present throughout the scripture sections for this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and in the wonderful adventure of Chato and Novio Boy in *Chato Goes Cruisin'*. You do not need to look far in the Bible to see that the **fidelity** of God abounds. The ultimate **fidelity** is heard in the concluding words that Jesus speaks to his disciples and to us in the reading from the Gospel of Matthew: *And behold I am with you always, until the end of the age.*



closing tool

Pray that you will always strive to be faithful and to be a person of fidelity in all relationships, most especially in your relationship with God. Amen.



**Santa Clara
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