

Ecce Homo Press Catholic Children's Programs

An introduction to:

Little Flowers Girls' Club®

Blue Knights Boys' Club™

Little Women Hospitality Program

Our Programs

- We offer three different programs to meet the different age group requirements of children in your parish



Overview

- Our programs consist of Leader's Manuals and Member's Guides as well as supplemental materials that differ from program to program
- Each program offers incentives such as badges, merit certificates, awards or charms to make the clubs appealing to children and families
- All programs are independently run and locally operated. There is no national organization or registration.
- Ecce Homo Press (Latin for: Behold, the Man—John 19:5) provides materials to operate your local group. Online Leader support is available through the website: www.eccehomopress.com

Overview Continued...

- Each year of the program is designed to cover the months from September through June, but can be adapted to suit the needs of the group.
- The groups are flexible for a variety of age groups or settings. They can be used in the parish setting, small group setting such as Catholic homeschool groups, or even in the home.
- The Member's Guides are the heart of the programs and should be available to each student participating in the program.

Little Flowers Girls' Club



- The Little Flowers Girls' Club (LFGC) is for girls ages 5 and up. It consists of four Wreaths or years of study. The first three are the study and practice of virtue. Wreath IV is a Confirmation Preparation year.



Wreath One



Wreath I year of study includes the virtues of Faith, Hope, Love of God, Love of Neighbor, Piety, Humility, Obedience, Industry and Truthfulness. These virtues are based on Fr. Lasance's classic "The Catholic Girls' Guide" in his section on the "Maiden's Wreath" It has been adapted to appeal to modern girls without losing the timeless practice of virtues.



Wreath I Content

Each virtue in the program allows the girls to study Scripture, lives of saints, and points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church while practicing the virtues. They learn prayers, songs, Bible verses and saints biographies in their club meetings.

I. ***THE SUNFLOWER — FAITH***

COLOR: Brightest Yellow SAINT: St. Catherine of Siena
FEAST: April 29

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 11:1
"Faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for, and conviction about things we do not see."

CCC - See Subject Index page 768-767 for multiple listings.

____ 1. Memorize the Scripture verse.

____ 2. Read about the saint chosen for this virtue. Write a short description of this saint and why she was chosen. Younger children can share this with their parents verbally.

____ 3. Memorize the prayer - "An Act of Faith." Make a resolution to begin each day with this prayer to God.

____ 4. Make a list or share five ways your family gives witness to our Catholic faith (Family Rosary, Sunday Mass, etc.).

____ 5. Describe through writing or orally a time when you shared your faith.

____ 6. Find out about another saint who courageously shared the Catholic faith with others by their very lives. These saints are "martyrs." Share what you learn with someone else.

____ 7. Read about the children who come to see Jesus (Mark 10: 13-16). Write a few sentences about what it means to have the faith of a child.

____ 8. Look at James 2: 14-26. List three ways you and your family has a faith "in action" through good works in the church or neighborhood.

____ 9. Talk to a religious about how their faith called them to their vocation.

____ 10. Plant some sunflowers this spring. Watch them grow and turn their faces to the sun. Make a resolution as to how you can always seek Jesus, the Sun of God, in your actions and in others.

_____ _____
Date of Completion Signature of Parent/Adult Supervisor

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Adaptable to a wide range of ages

- The program can be adapted to a wide range of age groups because of its flexibility. The leader of the group has control over the implementation so that they can determine the abilities of the children in the program and adapt the program to fit the needs of the group.



How to Adapt

 The Leader's Guide explains that the list of activities each child is to complete are more involved as they go down the list. A leader may require a younger student to do the first three or four of the activities to “earn” the virtue, whereas an older child may be required to do more, or even all ten.



Incentives and Awards



- Badges can be earned for each virtue completed in Wreaths 1-3. Each virtue makes up a petal of a flower so when they are all earned, the flower is formed.



Optional Incentives and Awards

- Also available are Gift Certificates and Holy Cards, which are especially helpful when you have a child too young to complete the simpler tasks.
- There are also Medal Project Awards that are specifically designed for older girls who may need a more challenging project or may be going through the program a second time around.



Other optional material available



 Ecce Homo Press offers sashes, bandanas, craft books, music, and much more to enhance your LFGC experience. All these are reasonably priced and available at www.eccehomopress.com



Organization & Leader Support



- There is no national organization or registration for LFGC. Each club is run independently. There is a free yahoogroup with about 900 leaders online that offers support, ideas and news from other Little Flowers Girls' Clubs all over the world.



LFGC Background

- LFGC began around 1995 with a Catholic homeschool group of moms in Baltimore, Maryland. They wanted a Catholic alternative to Girls Scouts that would reinforce the idea of an authentic Catholic woman. They placed their endeavors under the protection of St. Therese, the Little Flower, and adapted the program from Fr. Lasance's Catholic Girls' Guide. The primary force and writer of the program is Rachel Watkins, a homeschool mom of eleven children and regular on Greg Popcak's Radio Show: Heart, Mind and Strength.



Blue Knights Boys' Club

- ◆ Like the LFGC, the BKBC offers four years of study for boys ages five and up. The first year has similar virtues to the first year of LFGC.
- ◆ Also like LFGC, the BKBC can be adapted for different age groups by adjusting the tasks completed according to the needs of the boys and the group.



Knights for Virtue

- ◆ The boys' program is based on Ephesians 5, where the boys build a suit of armor as they learn virtue through Scripture and the lives of saints.



By Dads for Boys

- ◆ The program was written by a Catholic Dad (Maj. Dan McGuire, ret.) for the busy dad in mind.
- ◆ Like LFGC, the program incorporates scripture, lives of saints and the CCC in a fun, faith-filled environment.



Support Materials

Shield of Faith-St Peter

Construction Paper Shield *

My God, my refuge, my shield.
--Ps 18:2



Preparation Time: None, unless simplifying
Craft Time: 10-15 minutes

Materials: Per boy: 8 1/2" x 11" piece of construction paper
Markers, crayons, or scraps of construction paper
Glue
Items for decorating—cut out shapes, religious pictures from catalogues or magazines, stickers, glitter, etc.

Construction Paper Shield
Cardboard and 1" ribbon or elastic (optional)
Hot glue (optional)

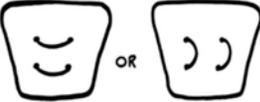
Tools: Scissors
Hot glue gun (optional)

Preparation: If simplifying, cut cardboard and construction paper into a shield shape. (See pattern.)

Craft: Have the boys cut and decorate their shield. Some ideas: fleur-de-lis (the symbol of France—for Joan of Arc), religious symbols, the Psalm verse above or other captions.

Simplify: See Preparation.

Construction Paper Shield
Embellish: Paste construction paper shield on cardboard. Hot glue elastic (big enough that the boy can put his arm in almost up to the elbow) on back so boys can hold the shield. There are two ways to do this—one piece about 1/4 the way down from the top and another a little more than halfway down OR each piece a little more than 1/4 of the way in on each side. (See patterns.)



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◆ Like the LFGC, there are a variety of materials available for BKBC.

◆ A sample from the Craft Companion book is seen at left

Badges and Other Awards

- ◆ As the boys practice virtues, they can earn badges, merit certificates and medal projects which are designed to be earned by older boys.



Faith Made Fun!

- ◆ Using a variety of games to reinforce the lesson, BKBC successfully keeps active boys on fire for their faith. They have fun with other Catholic boys, learn their faith, and want to come back for more!

Game Structure

Knights are divided into two "Team Chains" by lining up the Knights by height and alternating Team 1, Team 2, Team 1, Team 2, etc.

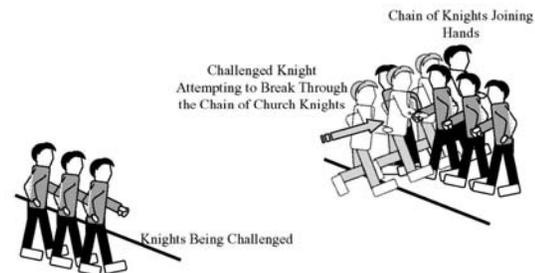
Saint Peter Claver met Saint Alphonsus while at seminary. Saint Alphonsus inspired Peter Claver to live among slaves who were being traded to other countries. He brought them medicine, food, and clothing because he knew even if the slaves could not understand his words he could, "speak to them with his hands." Slaves were chained and shipped to foreign lands, but many slaves' faith were strengthened and changed forever by Saint Peter Claver.

Team 1 begins the challenge by attempting to answer a Church question. If answered correctly, Team 1 chooses a Knight from Team 2 to break through their "chain". The "chain" represents the strength of the Team's faith. The selected Knight from Team 2 runs towards and tries to break Team 1's chain (any of the clasped hands – like Red Rover).

If the Team 2 Knight does not break through the chain, he becomes a member of Team 1. If the Team 2 Knight breaks the chain (any Team 1 hands come apart), he brings back any Knight from Team 1 to become a part of Team 2's chain.

Next Team 2 attempts to answer a Church question. If answered correctly, Team 2 chooses a Team 1 member to break through their chain. Team's alternate challenges until either Team 1 or Team 2 have only one Knight remaining – no chain. The one remaining Knight wins the Dagger of Perseverance.

Knights in the winning chain, randomly select three cards from their Knights Challenge cards. Knights pair up and play until "One Knight Stands" from the winning Church. The Knights Challenge winner is steward of the Flag of Fortitude and he decides who deserves the Crucifix of Compassion.



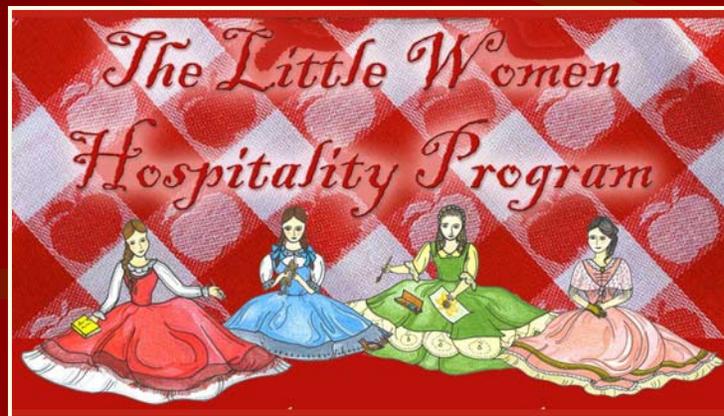
Online Leader Support



- ◆ Like our other programs, BKBC has no national registration or organization. Online Leader support is available through our website when you sign onto the yahoogroups.

Little Women Hospitality Program

- The newest addition to our Catholic Children's Programs is the Little Women Hospitality Program. This program is for girls ages 10 and up and teaches the girls different aspects of the virtue of Hospitality.



Serving Christ by Serving Others



- The girls in the program earn charms for a charm bracelet or necklace as they practice different aspects of serving Christ through the service of others.

Hospitality Means...

- The aspects of hospitality that are explored in this program include: cooking, cleaning, setting and clearing a table, the skill of conversation, table manners, sewing and modesty, preparing a room for a guest, correspondence, bringing hospitality to others, planning a tea party and hosting a book club.

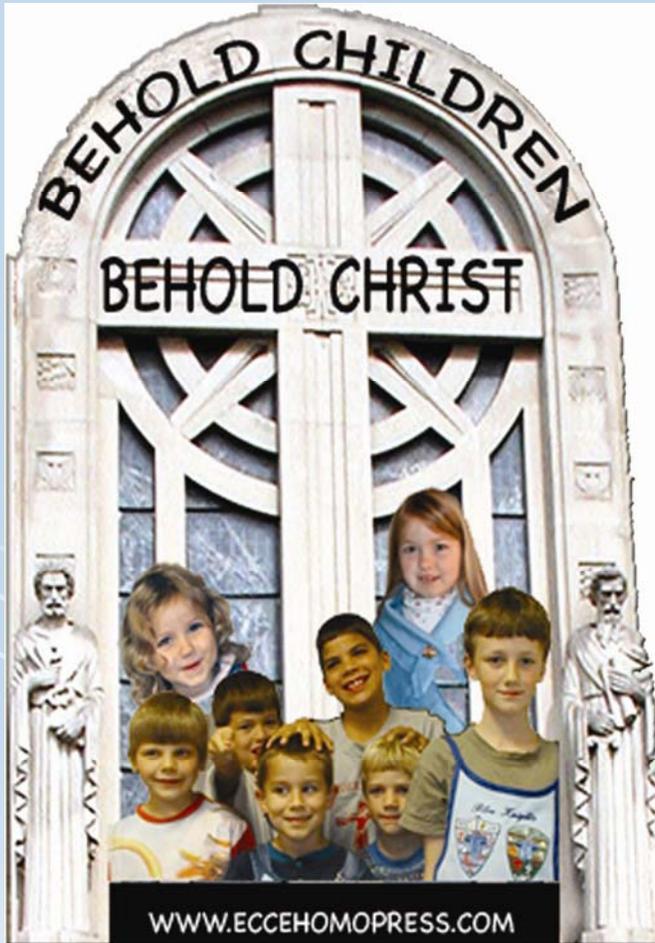


Literature and Faith

- The Hospitality Program incorporates examples from literature (e.g. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott) as well as a specific patronage of Our Lady to help the girls in their practice of the skills of hospitality.



Parish Ordering Information



- Ecce Homo Press can bill the parish for materials for the clubs. Parishes need to fax a purchase order on parish letterhead signed by a person authorized to purchase for the parish to: 1-800-884-7649.
- Materials can be returned in 30 days for a full refund (minus shipping) if accompanied by a copy of the original invoice and reason for return.
- If a parish wishes to use a credit card to purchase, you can purchase online at: www.eccehomopress.com
- Parishes receive free shipping on orders over \$250.00.