MARY'S LITTLE CROWNS
SCHOENSTATT

Mary's Virtues
The Jewels of Her Crown

Group Leader's Manual
Published by
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The Schoenstatt Girls' Youth:

- Is a branch of the Schoenstatt Movement, which was founded in Germany by Father Joseph Kentenich in the year 1914. The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary bear the main responsibility for the Girls' Youth.

- Includes three levels divided according to the ages of the girls. As such, the levels do not operate on a "prerequisites" basis. For example, a girl may join the Girls' Youth without being a Little Crown or Marian Apostle.

Mary's Little Crowns:

- Are girls from ages 6-9 years old. They strive to resemble Mary as her Little Crowns. The study material leads the girls to grow in love for Mary and basic knowledge of Catholic Marian devotion: (i.e., Marian feast days, rosary, names of Mary, pilgrimage places, Mary's virtues) and how Schoenstatt honors our Lady. Each group meeting corresponds to the school year, one per month, starting in September.
MARY’S LITTLE CROWNS

MARY’S VIRTUES — THE JEWELS OF HER CROWN

Overall goal: Continued formation of the girls in the Little Crowns of Mary groups (Year 2)

• help them grow in their admiration and love for the Blessed Mother

• help them understand that true love for Mary will lead to imitation of Mary

• give them practical ways in which they can try to acquire the virtues of the Blessed Mother
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Mary's Virtues
Group 1: We are Mary’s Little Crowns

Goal: Introductory Meeting
1. Help the girls understand that the purpose of our meetings is to grow in our love for Mary and try to imitate her virtues
2. Foster a positive attitude towards being members of our group
3. Encourage the girls to help create an atmosphere of joy in their surroundings

Materials Needed
Crowns copied on slips of paper, 10 for each girl
Copies of dot-to-dot crown
Copies of Mary’s Little Crown symbol
Pencils
Crayons
Bandannas - if available

1. Introduction

Pray: Begin the meeting with an opening prayer (in the shrine, in a home shrine) and thank the Blessed Mother for a new year of meetings. Invite the children to pray for their intentions. Conclude with a Hail Mary or with My Queen, My Mother.

Activity:
Welcome the children to the group. Invite them to share their names with one another (name badges are helpful!).

Games:
“Fruit Basket Upset” with the theme of Mary’s crown: Have enough places for the girls to sit, and choose one girl to be “it” standing in the middle. Give the children names according to the categories: diamonds, rubies, pearls, gold, silver. “It” chooses the categories that she wants to exchange places. In the meantime “it” finds a place to sit. The last girl to not find an empty chair becomes “it.” If “it” calls “Mary’s Little Crown” everyone has to change places. Play the game
for a few minutes.

We are proud of our name: Mary’s Little Crowns. Now we would like to get to know one another a little better.

**Game: Look Alike Crowns**

Each girl gets ten pictures of the crown. When the game starts, each one has to go to another girl and ask her a question about something that she did during the summer vacation. For example:

- I came to Day Camp. Did you?
- I visited my grandparents. Did you?
- I went with my family on vacation. Did you?
- I went swimming. Did you?
- I read some of my favorite books. Did you?
- I helped my mother at home. Did you?

If the other girl says yes, then she has to give the one who asked the question one of her crowns. If she says no, then the one who asked the question does not get a crown. The winner of the game is the girl who collects the most crowns.

**II. Development**

With these games we got to know each other a little better. We have many things in common. One very important thing that we have in common and that brought us together here is our love for the Blessed Mother and for our Schoenstatt Group. We have fun with each other, and together we learn more about Mary, and learn also how to become more like her.

**Brainstorm/Review**

Ask the girls what a crown is and who wears a crown.

A crown is a precious ornament for the head, in the form of a wreath or garland, worn as a symbol of honor, victory, responsibility, or joy! It can also be a head covering of gold and gems worn by kings and queens on special occasions as a sign of their power over their country.

Kings and queens, princes and princesses wear crowns. A beauty queen wears a crown. Many years ago Olympic champions would receive a crown when they won the games.

Our group is called Mary’s Little Crowns. Each one of us is meant to be like a crown which Mary, the Blessed Mother, can “wear.”
Activity: Dot to dot

In our Schoenstatt Shrine we see a crown above the picture of the Blessed Mother. That means that she is a queen. Can you remember what the crown looks like? Follow the dots on the dot-to-dot page and it will help you to remember.

A crown is something that is very beautiful, very precious. It is usually radiant and shiny. We admire the beauty of crowns and many times we would all like to have a crown.

We look at our symbol for our group and see the shrine and a lily encircled by many little crowns. The shrine is the place where we find the Blessed Mother. The lily is a symbol for purity, and many times it is a symbol for the Blessed Mother also because she is our model for purity. The many little crowns around the shrine and the lily represent all of us. We are Mary’s Little Crowns. Like the girl in the following story, when people look at us they should be reminded of the beauty of the Blessed Mother.

Story: A Girl Who Was Called Mary

A girl named Jennifer once told us that when she was in grade school her parents had to move to another city. She had to make new friends at the new school where she was going. It was a public school, so not everyone went to the same church. There was a kind girl in the class who wanted to become Jennifer’s friend. This girl was not Catholic, like Jenny, but she was very friendly. For the first few days she kept calling Jenny by the name Mary. Once Jenny told her that her name was not Mary. Her new friend was sorry that she did not remember her real name, but she thought her name was Mary. She thought that Jenny’s name was Mary because Jenny acted just in the same way she had imagined Mary, our Blessed Mother, would have been.

III. Application

Although our name might not be Mary, others should be able to call us Mary because they see Mary in us.

Ask: Does anyone know the story of the Annunciation? How did the angel greet Mary?

He said: “Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.” This is what we mean when we pray the first part of the Hail Mary. We say: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. To be full of grace means to be filled with the love of God. This is a very good reason to be happy, because there is no one like God who can and wants to make us as happy as God does. And each time we pray the Hail Mary, we actually remind the Blessed Mother of the happiest moment of her life: when she became the Mother of Jesus.

To be called Mary is a very special honor, even if our name is not Mary. It should make us happy, because Mary is the most wonderful person who ever lived on this earth. She is God’s
masterpiece.

When you see your mom's wedding ring at home, you think of your mom right away. It belongs to her, it tells you something about her. It should be the same way with us. If we are the crown of Mary, others should think of the Blessed Mother right away. We belong to her, we tell others about her. To know that we love and belong to Mary is something that makes us very happy. We are proud to be her little crowns. We want everyone to be able to see that. The best way to show others that we are happy and proud to be Mary's Little Crown is to be joyful — joy makes people beautiful, it makes them radiant.

**Resolution:** During the coming weeks until we meet again, we want to try to radiate the joy of being Mary's Little Crown in our families and with our friends. We want to be happy and try to make others happy.

**Craft:** Using the symbol for Mary's Little Crowns, invite the girls to make a (poster - reminder) (type of calendar) to offer their deeds of giving joy to others. Each time they do something to make someone happy, they can fill in a little crown and complete the rings around the shrine and the lily.

**Closing Prayers:**

Ask the children to repeat after you the prayer, My Queen, My Mother.

If applicable: Reception of bandannas for those who have never received them. Encourage the girls to wear them on the group meeting days.

* After each group encourage the girls to color a jewel from: Mary's Little Crowns of Virtue. They should color the jewel that corresponds to the virtue they learned in the group.
Mary's Little Crowns - of Virtue!

Name

Obedience
Kindness
Honesty
Joy
Generosity
Patience
Gratitude
Loyalty
Group 2: The jewels in the crown of Mary are the virtues that she practiced

Goal:
1. Help girls understand what a virtue is. Today we will be looking especially at the virtue of kindness
2. Help girls understand why it is good/necessary to practice virtues
3. Encourage the girls to practice kindness towards others — expressed in reverence, respect, and goodness to others

Materials Needed
Good Samaritan Game: two blankets, band-aids for each child, masking tape
Walking on Stars to Heaven: stars printed on paper, one for each child plus two
Worksheets
Pencils
Crayons

1. Introduction

Pray: October is the month of the rosary. Invite the children to pray one decade of the rosary for world peace. Ask volunteers to lead the Hail Marys, giving everyone who can pray it a chance to pray.

Activity: Games

Walking on Stars to Heaven

Divide the group in two teams. Each team member gets a star that they can stand on. Each team gets an extra star. Designate starting and goal areas with masking tape, the space between the goals is the sky. Have the children line up behind the first player, who has two stars. At “go” she places the stars in the floor in front of her and walks on them. The second player steps on the free star and gives the first player her star, so they can continue walking on the stars to reach the goal. The next person to step on the free star passes her star to the first player, so that the group can continue moving. The teams have to work together so that they can return to the starting point without having anyone fall into the sky because they were not
standing on a star. The last person in the line has to continue passing the star to the front once everyone is standing in the sky. The first team to reach the starting point is the winning team.

and/or

The Good Samaritan Relay

Ask the children if they know the story of the Good Samaritan, and if they don’t, explain the story briefly in your own words.

Divide the group into two teams and line them up. Each team receives a bandaid for each member, and a blanket. Mark off the starting point with masking tape. Mark off the goal with an X. The first person becomes the good Samaritan and the second person becomes the patient. The first person on the team takes the second one to the X. The second one sits on the X. The first one listens to the heart beat of the other, puts a bandaid on the other, covers the other with the blanket and lets the other lean on her like a crutch all the way back to the starting point. The second one now becomes the “good Samaritan” to the next girl in line, who is now the patient. The first team whose members have all been good Samaritans and patients wins.

II. Development

Ask: What did the two games that we played have in common?

   We needed to work together
   We helped each other
   The good Samaritan was kind to the patient

Ask: What do the stars remind you of? Did you ever see a picture of the Blessed Mother where she is crowned with stars? The stars remind us of heaven, and they also remind us of the crown of the Blessed Mother. We are her little crowns!

Explain: God wants all of us to get to heaven, just like Mary is in heaven and crowned with stars. (See worksheet)

Jesus teaches us that there are “stepping stones” or “stars” that we need to walk on that will help us to get to heaven. When the disciples ask Jesus what they need to do in order to get to heaven, he teaches them a golden rule.

Discuss: Does anyone know the golden rule? _Do to others what you would want them to do to you._

Is it always easy to do what the golden rule tells us? Is it always easy to do the right thing? 
_No!_
How do we know what is the right thing to do? *We are taught by others, we know in our hearts if what we are doing is good or not.*

**Explain:**

It's not easy to always know what the right thing to do is. But if we practice doing the right things, this helps us to be able to do it without much effort.

These good habits have a name: they are called **virtues**.

We like to look at the crown of the Blessed Mother and imagine that all good habits that she had during her life became the jewels or the stars of her crown!

What is a virtue? - It's a good habit that enables me to make the right decisions and to choose the right actions. This year we want to learn more about the virtues and how they can become the stepping stones for us to get to heaven.

Can you think of some good habits that we sometimes have?

Can you think of some bad habits that we sometimes have?

**Activity: Kindness**

Today we would like to learn what kindness is all about. It is a very good habit to have. The Good Samaritan was kind to the patient. We want to learn to be kind to others.

**Worksheet 1:** Read the short explanation of kindness. Ask: Why do we show kindness to others? Because every person is a gift from God and everyone is loved by God! How can we show respect? By practicing kindness!

Invite the children to color in the star with the word kindness.

**Worksheet 2:** Invite the children to identify the pictures showing kindness. They should color only the ones that reflect kindness!

**Worksheet 3:** Invite the children to read the poem on kindness.

**Act it out:** We want to act out deeds of kindness: Have volunteers pretend that they are kind to someone who is sad because her dog ran away from home, that they are kind to mom or dad when they ask for help at home, that they are kind to a brother or sister who wants to change the TV program, that they are kind to a friend who by accident broke their favorite toys.
III. Application:

We are striving to be Mary's Little Crowns; therefore we want to imitate her good habits, her virtues. To practice good habits is to follow the golden rule that Jesus gave us. We want to use the good habits as stepping stones to heaven.

Today we learned very much about kindness. We want to practice deeds of kindness until we see each other in at the next meeting.

Activity: Have the girls imagine themselves as being kind at home. Have them make a drawing of it to take home and put it where they can see it every day!

Closing prayer: Pray My Queen, My Mother asking the Blessed Mother to help me be kind to others.
Mary's Virtues

Mary is crowned with stars. The stars in her crown are the virtues that she practiced.

A virtue is a good habit, that helps me to do what is good.
The golden rule:
Do to others what you would want them to do to you.

Every person is a gift from God. Everyone is loved by God and is his child. Everyone is precious to God. We show love and respect for persons when we practice:
Showing Kindness to Others

God needs us to show his goodness and kindness to others through our deeds. Color the pictures that show deeds of kindness.

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3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

By Carolyn Tomlin

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Be Kind
by Jacqueline Schiff

Be kind to everyone you meet
And greet them with a smile.
Shake hands when you are introduce,
Then visit for a while.

Choose words that lift a person up
So they feel good inside.
Be generous with all you have;
God’s watching you with pride.

Choose deeds that help a person grow
To be the best they can;
Respect them when you’re giving help.
To lady, child or man.

Be kind to all God’s animals
Of land and sky and sea.
Protect and care for all your pets;
Be kind as you can be.

Be kind to all your family
And listen to their views.
Give hugs and helping hands to them
And you will never lose.

Be kind when someone makes mistakes;
Be kind when someone cries.
Be kind by giving your support;
Be loving, patient and wise.

Let kindness be part of you;
For sure is always cool.
Let kindness shine inside of you
At home, in church, at school.

The Lord is kind to everyone.
So let Him be your guide.
Be kind to all His universe;
Keep kindness by your side.

And don’t forget, when being kind
In everything you do,
To exercise kindheartedness
Toward very special YOU.
As Mary's Little Crown, I want to show Mary's kindness to others.
Group 3: The Jewel of Gratitude

Goal:
1. Help the girls understand what it means to be grateful and how important it is
2. Help the girls see what a grateful person Mary is
3. Encourage the girls to learn a prayer of thanksgiving

Materials Needed
If it is a small group, copies of the Thankfulness Game (6-8 girls)
Copies of the scene of the Visitation
Copies of the song “With Heartfelt Love”
Copies of the Stand-Up Turkey
Crayons
Scissors
Glue

1. Introduction
Pray with the girls; include their intentions in the prayer by asking them to say for what or whom they would like to pray.

Activity: Games

Who’s Leading
One girl leaves the room; the others sit in a circle, and one begins leading the actions, like tapping their head, or clapping, etc. The girl who was sent outside the room returns and has to try to decide who is leading the action.

I See Blue
One girl chooses an object in the room - blue - saying I see blue; everyone else (taking turns!) has to try to discover what she is seeing. Whoever guesses has the next turn.

Optional: For a small group use the matching game
II. Development

Ask: What did the two games that we played have in common?

We needed to pay attention and notice things (who was leading the game, and what things in the room were blue).

Ask: Was it always easy to see the things that we were looking for?

No, it is not always easy to pay attention.

Lead on

Sometimes this happens to us with God. There are many gifts that he gives us and we don’t always notice them! It also happens with our families and friends: We don’t notice the good things that they give us or what they do for us.

Discuss: Try to mention three things that your mom did for you today. Everyone gets a turn.

Explain: To be grateful for the kindness of others and for gifts that others give us is a beautiful virtue. Virtues are good habits that help me to know what to do and how to act in the right way, in a way that makes God our Father happy. To say thank you for gifts received shows that we appreciate what others give us or do for us. People who know how to say thank you are people who know how to show love to others and also never take anything for granted.

Story: Mary Teaches us to Thank God - The Visitation

Hand out the page with the Visitation scene. Ask the children if they remember which is the second joyful mystery of the rosary. Ask them if they can tell the story in their own words.

Explain that in this Bible story, we hear the beautiful words of thanksgiving that Mary spoke, because she thanked God for having looked upon her and chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. She said a prayer that is called the Magnificat.

Read the page, and point out that Mary had not shared her secret with anyone, but that Elizabeth was inspired by God to say that Mary was the Mother of God. Mary was very happy. She began to praise and thank God for his goodness. Mary said:

The Lord has done great things for me. Holy is his name.

Mary believed and trusted in the Lord. Mary kept God’s word in her heart and gave thanks to God for his love.

III. Application:

We are striving to be Mary’s Little Crowns and therefore we want to imitate her good habits,
her virtues. We want to use the good habits as a help to always know what is the best thing to do. When we receive something from someone, the best thing to do is to say thank you right away. It shows that we notice the kindness of others and appreciate all that they do for us or give us.

_Father Joseph Kentenich_ had a great love for the Blessed Mother, and felt that everything that he had and could do in his life was Mary’s gift to him. He talked to many people of how important it is to thank God and Mary for all that they have done for us. He also wrote prayers of thanksgiving. One of the prayers was put to music. We would like to try to learn this song, and sing it often in order to give joy to the Blessed Mother. *(Song: With Heartfelt Love)*

Today we learned very much about gratitude. We don’t want to take things for granted. We want to say thank you as often as we can. (If possible, sing the song with the girls or play the Youth tape).

**Activity:** Stand-Up Turkey. As we color our little turkeys, we want to think about one thing that we want to thank God for this coming Thanksgiving. We will write this on the back of the tail of our turkeys.

**Closing prayer:** Sing the song, “With Heartfelt Love”
Thankfulness Game

Materials:
- Photo copy of card sheet (page 7)
- Crayons or markers
- Construction paper or lightweight poster board
- Scissors
- Glue
- Clear adhesive plastic (optional)
- Zip-close bag

Directions:
1. Copy the card sheet for each child.
2. Provide crayons or markers for coloring the pictures.
3. Glue the sheet to an 8½" x 11" sheet of construction paper (or poster board).
4. Cover the sheet with clear adhesive plastic (optional).
5. Cut the 16 cards apart.
6. Keep the cards in a zip-close bag.

To Play the Game:
Lay all the cards face down on a table, mixing them around, then setting them in rows.

The first player chooses a card, then turns over another to see if they match. If they are the same, the player says, "I am thankful for (whatever is on the card)" and keeps the set. If the two cards do not match, the player puts them back and the next player takes a turn. Play continues until all the matches have been made. The player with the most sets is the winner.

by Enelle Eder
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<td>Food</td>
<td>Toys</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pets</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Toys</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mary Teaches us to Thank God

When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, she was inspired by God to say that Mary was the Mother of God. Mary was very happy. She began to praise and thank God for his goodness. Mary said:

“The Lord has done great things for me. Holy is his name.”

Mary believed and trusted in the Lord. Mary kept God’s word in her heart and gave thanks to God for his love.
WITH HEARTFELT LOVE

A prayer by Father Joseph Kentenich

With heartfelt love
I thank you, Mother dear.
With you to guide me,
I need have no fear.
When all around
seemed dark and drear and gray,
you stood as beacon
for a brighter day.
Your smile illumined
every wakeful hour.
You did uphold me
with your gentle power.
Thanks, a thousand thanks
to you to God shall be
now and for always,
for all eternity.
Thanks, a thousand thanks
to you to God shall be
now and for always,
for all eternity.
Stand-Up Turkey

1. Color the three turkey patterns and cut them out.
2. Glue the two turkey fronts together.
3. Cut a slit down from the top of the turkey and up from the bottom of the turkey’s tail.
4. Slip the two pieces together at the slits to make the turkey stand up.

by Mary Currier
Group 4: The Jewel of Patience

Goal:

1. Help girls understand that patience as a virtue is necessary in order to live in harmony with others. In the season of Advent, it is especially necessary so that we can prepare well for Christmas!

2. Help girls understand that Mary had to be patient when she was asked to be the Mother of Jesus. She is our great example of patience. Out of love for her, we want to try to be patient.

Materials Needed

For the game: chairs, a toy lamb, a blindfold

Worksheets

Pencils

Crayons

Scissors

I. Introduction

Pray

Activity: The Shepherd and his Lamb

*Chairs in a semicircle, one chair far from the circle of chairs, a toy lamb, a blindfold*

**Introduction:** Explain: Soon it will be Christmas, and we all know that at the first Christmas, the angels appeared to the shepherds in the field to tell them that Jesus the Savior was born.

**Directions:** All the girls sit in the semicircle of chairs except one, who will be the shepherd. The shepherd is blindfolded and sits in the chair that is far from the semicircle. Next to her on the floor is the toy lamb. The game leader points to a child in the group, who will try to quietly come up to the lamb and bring it back to his place without being heard by the shepherd. If the shepherd hears a player coming up, he points in the direction of the sound and if his pointing is correct, the shepherd keeps the role for another round. If the thief gets back to her chair without being discovered, she becomes the new shepherd.
II. Development: Waiting and being patient

**Ask:** What did the shepherd have to do if she wanted to catch the thief?

She had to listen carefully.

Was it always easy to listen carefully? Why?

No, because there were other noises.

Was it easy for the thief to take the lamb?

Sometimes. But she had to be careful, and go slow and quietly so that the shepherd would not hear her.

Was it easy to wait?

No, it is not easy to wait.

**Waiting can sometimes be hard. We are in the season of Advent, and Advent is a time of waiting for the birthday of Jesus. We would like to wait for Jesus like Mary did, preparing and being patient.**

Direct the girls to the worksheet. What do the twelve stars stand for? Mary’s crown. We are Mary’s Little Crown. As her little crown, we want to wait for Jesus like Mary did. Ask them to think of times when they had to wait. Ask them to share their answers and explain.

**Review:** Definition of a virtue. Ask a volunteer to read the review about the meaning of the word virtue. Ask the children if they know which virtue is needed so that we can wait for things calmly. Invite them to unscramble the word to discover the virtue.

**Discuss:** We are always waiting for things. On the next sheet, let the children work quietly and describe what they see in the pictures, and what these people are waiting for.

1. A family planted a tree and now they have to wait for it to grow.

2. Children have to wait their turn to get into the bus.

3. People have to wait for their food when they order it in a restaurant.

**Mary waited patiently for the birth of Jesus.**

Ask volunteers to read the story on the next worksheet. Ask the children to tell you who the people in the drawings are.

**Discuss the story:** Where in the story did it show that Mary had to be patient?

1. When she waited for God to tell Joseph that she was the mother of Jesus.
2. How she and Joseph had to prepare for Jesus, just like families prepare for their children when they are born.

3. How Mary had to adjust to the change in plans and make the long trip to Bethlehem with Joseph.

4. How Mary and Joseph searched in Bethlehem for a place to stay and then only found a stable.

III. Application: As Mary’s Little Crowns, we also have to be patient as we prepare for Christmas.

Invite the children to think what they can do to show that they are trying to be patient now before Christmas.

Ask them to write down what they think they can do. These deeds of patience will become like stars leading the way to the crib, for ourselves and for those around us.

Activity: Star craft!

Closing prayer
Advent -
We are waiting for Jesus like Mary

Waiting can sometimes be hard.

Can you think of times when you had to wait?

Write them here.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Do you still remember what a virtue is? It is a good habit that helps us to do the right thing.

What virtue do you think we need to practice in order to know how to wait?
Unscramble the answer here:

PEANTCIE
What do you think that these people are waiting for?

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

38
MARY WAITED PATIENTLY FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

St. Luke tells us the story of how Mary said yes to God, and then waited for the birth of Jesus.

First, the angel Gabriel told Mary that she was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus. Mary said to angel, "I am the servant of the Lord. Be it done as you say."

Then Mary went to a town of Judah and visited her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also going to have a baby. Mary helped Elizabeth until John the Baptist was born.

Mary returned to Nazareth. She did not tell Joseph what had happened to her. She patiently waited and trusted that God would help her. Joseph was told in a dream that Mary would be the mother of the Messiah. Joseph helped Mary prepare all the things that would be needed for Jesus when he was born.

Something happened that wasn’t expected. During the time when Mary and Joseph were waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus, the emperor ordered a census, and everyone had to travel back to their own town. Joseph had to take Mary with him to Bethlehem. With great patience and trust in God, Mary and Joseph prepared for the trip to Bethlehem.
There was no room for Joseph and Mary in the places where other travelers stayed. They were given a stable for their home. Finally the time of waiting came to an end. Jesus was born in this stable, and Mary laid him in a manger.

Where in the story does it show that Mary had to be patient?

As Mary's Little Crown, we also have to wait and be patient, especially before Christmastas.

What can you do now in Advent to show that you are trying to be patient? It can be your birthday gift to Jesus on Christmas day! Write down what you want to do:

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Prayer:

Dear Blessed Mother,
Thank you for saying yes to Jesus, and for giving birth to him in Bethlehem. Help me that I can prepare my heart for Christmas by trying to be patient with others.
Amen.
CARRY THE LIGHT OF YOUR STAR TO THE Crib

Materials
⇒ construction paper
⇒ scissors
⇒ glue or paste
⇒ gold cord

Directions
1. Cut the pattern out and trace it on construction paper. Using the pattern make stars. Punch holes where shown.
2. Fold the stars down the center.
3. Glue side A to A, B to B, C to C and D to D.
4. Optional: spread glue on the ornaments and sprinkle glitter on them.
5. Add gold cord for hangers.
Group 5: The Jewel of Generosity

Goal:
1. Help girls understand what generosity is
2. Encourage the girls to practice generosity out of love for others, not because they expect a reward

Materials Needed
Pillow, blindfold
Worksheets
Pencils
Crayons/markers
Stapler

I. Introduction

Pray: Lead the children in prayer, encouraging them to think of people who need our prayers. Ask volunteers to express their prayer intentions out loud. Invite the children to pray together a Hail Mary or My Queen, My Mother.

Activity: Game

Squeak, Bunny, Squeak

The children are seated on chairs in a circle. One of the girls is “it.” “It” is blindfolded and stands in the middle. She is given a pillow. The children sitting in the circle change places, so that “it” does not remember who was sitting where. “It” gets turned around three times, and then she has the task to find another girl’s lap where she can put the pillow, she stands in front of the person and says “Squeak, bunny, squeak.” The girl who has the pillow on her lap then has to squeak like a bunny, and “it” has to try to discover who she is and say her name. If she guesses correctly, then the new girl becomes “it.” Play the game for a few rounds.
II. Development

Discuss: Was it always easy to figure out who was squeaking? Yes, if you know your friends really well, no, if you don’t know the other girls. It can be fun to try to guess who is who!

We are Mary’s Little Crowns and this year we are trying to discover some of the virtues of the Blessed Mother. The virtues of Mary radiates like jewels shine in a crown. Her virtues made her beautiful! Everyone loves Mary and admires Mary because she was so good. We are learning from her how we can practice the virtues.

Ask: Does anyone remember what the definition of the word virtue is? A virtue is a good habit that helps me to do what is good.

Ask: Does anyone remember which virtues we have already learned about?

   Kindness

   Gratitude

   Patience

Explain: Today we want to learn about a new virtue of the Blessed Mother, the virtue of generosity.

Direct the children to the worksheets.

Ask: Have a volunteer read the title of the page and the first question. Which is the best definition for the word generous?

   c. willing to give or share, no matter what

   d. doing my chores at home without complaining

Ask: Can you think of someone who has been generous to you lately? What did they do for you?

   Let children share their responses.

Story: The Grains of Rice—the main idea of the story is that when we are generous, we receive much more in return than what we have given; here rice turns into gold, but in everyday life it is not so. The gold we discover is in the joy of having shared!

Ask volunteers to read the story out loud.

Discuss the questions at the end with the children:

   Is sharing with others always easy? Why or why not?
It is not always easy because we like to keep our things to ourselves; we want to have our things to enjoy them at all times.

All of us have to fight with our selfishness, and this is hard.

Do we always get a reward when we share?

No, not always. Actually, very seldom are we rewarded; our reward is knowing that we did the best thing we could do and made God and others happy!

Who will always see our generosity and reward us? How are we rewarded?

God and the Blessed Mother always see our generosity. They in turn give us their love and grace; these are great treasures that help us grow in love for them and for others!

Read the sentence from Scripture often quoted by Father Kentenich: “God loves the joyful giver!” (2 Cor. 7, 9) It reminds us that God looks upon us with special love when we joyfully give of what we have to others.

Direct the children to find the message from Scripture that is contained in the word search. After the children have crossed out all the extra words, they will find the message:

Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice generosity.

Ask the children if they know people who are in need.

Ask the children to make up a story with the drawing underneath the word search. They may also color in the picture if they like.

Ask them if they ever notice times when their parents or brothers and sisters are in need. How can they be generous towards them?

The generosity of the Blessed Mother from the Schoenstatt Shrine

Ask the children if they think that the Blessed Mother was generous. Ask them to give you examples from her life that show her generosity:

♦ When she said yes to God!
♦ When she helped Elizabeth
♦ When she helped the young couple at Cana

Ask volunteers to read the next article about the Blessed Mother’s generosity. Explain briefly the three graces from the shrine as a special gift of Mary’s generosity to all of us today.

Mary wants to give us a home, she wants to help us become better people, and she would like to give us courage to share our faith with others. She gives us the grace to do these things as a
free gift. She doesn’t expect anything in return. But we can’t help but love her for it!

When we practice generosity with others, we can give them joy. That’s what the Blessed Mother wants to do for us. She wants to make us happy, and not only us, but many, many people. When we are generous like Mary, we are actually helping her to give joy to others!

III. Application: Since we have seen an example of generosity, and also realized that Mary is our best model for generosity, we want to try to practice generosity until we see each other again.

On the last sheet, direct the children to think of ways that they can show generosity at home. Invite them to draw themselves being generous or doing generous deeds. Some possible examples are:

- Setting the table
- Helping with the dishes
- Playing with a younger sibling
- Making our beds
- Cleaning our rooms without being told
- Letting others go first

After the children have drawn their generous deeds on their tickets, direct them to cut the tickets out and help them to staple their little booklets. Explain that they can give these booklets to their moms or dads, and when they need help with any of the things that are drawn there, they can ask for help, and we will try to do it as generously as possible!

Closing prayer: A prayer of thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother for her generous gifts from the shrine
LIKE MARY, I WANT TO BE GENEROUS

Which is the best definition for the word generous?

a giving to others but expecting to get something in return
b sharing always and only with my friends
c willing to give or share, no matter what
d doing my chores at home without complaining

Can you think of someone who has been generous to you lately? What did they do for you?

The Grains of Rice

Once upon a time, there was a king who wanted to know how generous the people in his kingdom were. He wanted to reward each person according to their willingness to share.

He left his castle, and told his guards not to follow him. He went through the forest of his kingdom on his horse, dressed like a servant, and then came to the place where his servants lived.

He knocked on the door of the house of one of his servants.

The servant opened the door and greeted his king, disguised as a servant.

"Good morning, Sir! What do you want?" asked the servant to the king.

"Good morning, I am visiting the countryside on my way to another kingdom. I am in need of your help. Is there anything that you can give me to help me on my way?"

The servant was upset that this traveler would ask him for something. "I am a very poor man, and right now I have no food in my house. Go to the next house and see if they can help you." The servant said this because he didn't want to give anything to the traveler.
"I am not asking for much, but I promise to reward you very generously for anything that you can give me," said the king.

The servant didn't even invite him to come into the house. "Wait here until I come back out," he said. The servant went in his house and went to a sack of rice that he had. He took out a handful of rice, put it in a small bag, and brought it to the traveler.

"Here," said the servant. "This is all that I can give you."

The king looked at the rice, not enough for a meal, and then looked at the servant. "Is this all that you can give me?" he asked.

"Yes, and now I must leave you to attend my work. Good-bye!" And with that he closed his door and went back into the house.

The king left very sad that this servant was not willing to share more, and continued his trip through his kingdom.

When the servant was back in the house, he wanted to close his sack of rice, and he suddenly noticed that something was shining inside of the sack.

He looked and saw that there were small pieces of gold in the sack, and when he took them out, he realized that there were as many pieces of gold as grains of rice that he had given to the traveler.

"What have I done! This traveler rewarded each grain of rice with a piece of gold! If only I had given him more!" He lamented that he had not been generous. He ran out to see if he could catch up to the traveler, but he could not see him anymore.

Something to think about...

Is sharing with others always easy? Why or why not?

Do we always get a reward when we share?

Who will always see our generosity and reward us? How are we rewarded?
“God loves the joyful giver!”

2 Cor. 7, 9

Find a ten-word message from the Bible by crossing out the following words:

Names of colors
Words ending with T
Names of animals
Words beginning with C

Write the leftover words on the lines.

BLUE TURKEY SHARE MEET COAL GRAY WITH BROWN FISH
OUT COST GOD'S BEAR FIRST PEOPLE LAST WHITE CASH
WHO LION LOST CREAM ARE YELLOW COUCH IN LIST
NEED DEER YET RED DOVE CEASE PRACTICE HORSE PINK
GREEN CARRY GENEROSITY FEAST

Romans 12:13

Do you know people who are in need?

When are your parents or your brothers and sisters in need? How can you be generous to them?
Mary is a generous Mother - She wants to give us many gifts!

When the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Labouré to give her the Miraculous Medal, she told her that she has many gifts to give, but people do not ask her for these gifts.

Do Ipray to the Blessed Mother asking her for help? She has helped many people. Already when she lived in Nazareth she helped many people. Can you think of any of the stories from the Bible that tell about this?

When we visit the shrine at Schoenstatt, the Blessed Mother is waiting there to give us many gifts of love.

She wants to be near us and help us at all times.

She especially wants to give us three gifts:

♦ the gift of being at home in the shrine

♦ the gift to be transformed into better and happier people

♦ the gift of being able to share our faith and our love for God with others.

You can also ask the Blessed Mother for these gifts by making a spiritual visit to the shrine. That means that you pray before a picture of the Mother Thrice Admirable and ask her for her help from her Schoenstatt Shrine. She has many graces to give us from her little shrine.

Whenever we pray before the picture of the Mother Thrice Admirable, she wants to give us her gifts of love and grace, just like she does it when we visit her shrine.
Think of ways that you can be generous. Write them down or draw them. Decorate the tickets, cut them out, staple them and give them to your parents.

No. 001
This ticket is good for:

No. 002
This ticket is good for:

No. 003
This ticket is good for:

No. 004
This ticket is good for:

No. 005
This ticket is good for:

My Tickets of Generosity
Group 6: The Jewel of Loyalty

**Goal:** Through this group the girls should:

1. know the definition of “loyalty” and be able to identify examples of loyalty/disloyalty in action;
2. value Mary’s example of loyalty as she remained close to Jesus even under the cross;
3. understand that we can be loyal to Jesus by following his example and by being loyal to others.

**Materials Needed**

- Music (if game is used)
- Handouts
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Pencils

1. **Introduction**

**Prayer:** Invite the girls to pray a prayer they know by heart. Special intentions may also be added.

**Activity: Stone Game**

The girls should be seated in a circle. As music plays, a stone or other small object is passed around the circle. When the music stops, the girl holding the object is out. Continue playing until one is left, or as time allows.

**Application:**

In this game, the girl who got the object was out of the game. But in reality, is it so? We can think of someone else who carried a very heavy object out of love for us. Who was it? Jesus! Many people might have thought that, too, was a bad thing when it happened, that Jesus’ life had ended in failure, but we know the truth! When he carried the cross, it was a great act of love for everyone in the world. And three days later, he rose again to new life. We are in (or are approaching) a very holy season when we remember Jesus’ death on the cross. What is it called? Lent! During this time we want to make many sacrifices, and help him carry the burden of the cross once again. In order to do that, today we will look at another important
At this point, a brief review of the definition of virtue (a good habit that helps us to do what is good and that makes us more like Jesus and Mary) and the past virtues of kindness, gratitude, patience, and generosity may be done.

II. Development: The Virtue of Loyalty

Our virtue for this month is LOYALTY - an important virtue for Little Crowns during Lent, and all throughout the year! What is loyalty? The following rhyme will help us understand it:

To be like Jesus in all you do,
Even when it is hard for you!
That is the virtue of loyalty.

Repeat until the girls can say it from memory. Some examples of loyalty are:
- when we have a specific job to do at home, we do it completely and to the best of our ability, even if it is hard;
- with our friends, we are always good and kind to them, we don’t speak about them behind their backs or make fun of them;
- we are loyal in living our faith — we attend Holy Mass, say our prayers, follow the ten commandments — we are good Christians and Catholics even if it isn’t always easy.

Activity: Lenten Word-Search

- Read the clues of the word-search (this may be used as an alternate activity for younger girls who are not strong readers). If the person described was loyal to Jesus, clap once. If he/she didn’t practice the virtue of loyalty, clap twice. In between discuss the reasons for answering one way or the other. Why would that person’s actions be loyal, or disloyal?
- The word-search can be done after the clue activity.

Story: The Donkey’s Legend

Read the story together, and talk about how the little donkey was loyal to Jesus. He wanted to remain with Jesus, even when it was hard for him.

The Life of Mary

Complete the activity on the sheet. How was Mary loyal to Jesus?

1. She was with him when he carried his cross.
2. She was there beneath the cross when he died.
3. She was there to hold him when he was taken down from the cross.
She was always there! We can ask ourselves: Are we always there for Jesus? We cannot be near his cross as Mary was, but we can be loyal. We can be "always there" for Jesus by following his example and the example of Mary by always being there for those around us who need our love, our help, and our prayers — even if it is not easy for us to do so. Sometimes following the example of Jesus is not easy — but then, it was not easy for him to give his life on the cross. Wouldn't you like to offer your own loyalty as a gift to him?

Choose one of the pictures of Mary being loyal to Jesus, and color it nicely.
Complete the matching activity. Discuss how those things that we can do to follow Jesus are not always easy, but in doing them we help Jesus to carry his cross, we remain loyal to him like the little donkey was.

Example: It isn't always easy to play with a younger sibling when I have other things I might like to do . . . but that can be my way of offering a gift to Jesus and of being loyal to him.

III. Application: My Lenten Resolution — to be Loyal to Jesus!

Review the definition of loyalty. During these coming weeks of Lent, we also want to earn our jewel by being loyal to Jesus. Like the little donkey, we want to stay with him and help him carry his cross by keeping our resolution faithfully each day. As a reminder, color the picture and cut out the resolution poster to take home.

Closing Prayer (Pray together the first part of the prayer on the poster.)
Mary, our loyal queen, teaches us to love Jesus

What does the word loyalty mean?

How do we prove to our friends that we are loyal friends?

Lenten Word Search

There are names of people hidden in this word search puzzle. Can you find them?

1. Judas was the disciple who betrayed Jesus.
2. Caiaphas was the high priest.
3. Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest.
4. Herod, the ruler who wanted to see a miracle.
5. A crowd of people went with Judas to arrest Jesus.
6. Pilate condemned Jesus to please the Jews.
7. Simon was the man who carried the cross for Jesus.
8. The women followed Jesus, weeping.
9. The robbers were also crucified.
10. The soldiers crucified Jesus and took his clothes.
11. Mary loved Jesus and stayed with her Son under the cross.
12. Joseph took care of taking Jesus down from the cross.
13. Nicodemus helped place Jesus in the tomb.
14. Mary Magdalene found the angels at the tomb when Jesus rose from the dead.
In reward for the loyal and humble love of the little donkey, the Lord caused the shadow of the cross to fall across his back and left it there for the donkey to carry forever, as a sign that the love of God, no matter how humble, carries a reward for all of us to see.

Even today, if you look at the back of the little Castilian donkey, you will notice that a dark patch of hair goes down its back, and then crosses at its shoulders. Ever since Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of the little donkey, the donkey has worn a cross on its back.

How did the donkey show that he was loyal to Jesus?

Look at the drawings on this page. How did the Blessed Mother show that she was loyal to Jesus?

1. 

2. 

3. 

Lent is a season that reminds us that Jesus always did what God the Father wanted him to do, even if this meant that he had to die on the cross.

Jesus told us that if we want to follow in his footsteps we too would experience hardships, difficulties, pain, and suffering.

The Blessed Mother is our best example as to how we are to be loyal to Jesus. She stood by his side when he suffered for us. She never turned away from him.

Like the Blessed Mother, we want to spend this time of Lent closely united to Jesus, we want to be loyal to Jesus, because he loved us so much. We do not want to be like some of his best friends who ran away from him; we want to stay at his side.
THIS MUCH I LOVE YOU

The sun was warm and the grass so green, the birds singing happily. A lady sat at her spinning wheel and she watched her child at play. A gentle handsome child was he, this boy who just turned three, whose greatest joy and thrill right now was climbing the highest tree.

This much I love you
Oh this much I really care.
This much I love you,
And I will always be right there.

How much do you love me his mother asked of this child out playing so free. This much he said with his arms outstretched as he ran quickly to her knee. The years have passed and this child has grown, he is strong and handsome still. But the tree he loved to climb so much he just carried to Calvary’s hill.

His mother stands and I see her tears fall silently one by one. I’m sure she feels each hammer blow as they crucify her Son. How much do you love me the world has asked of this man now crucified. This much, he cried, with his arms outstretched, as he bowed his head and died.
To be loyal to Jesus means to follow his example. Match an action you can do with the example Jesus set for us during his earthly life. Connect the dots to match the actions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we can do</th>
<th>What Jesus did</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Play with a younger sibling</td>
<td>• Loved children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Visit a relative in the hospital</td>
<td>• Prayed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Talk with God during the day</td>
<td>• Obeyed his mother and father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Put my toys and clothes away</td>
<td>• Gave people food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Save some money to give to the poor</td>
<td>• Told people about God’s love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Invite a friend to holy Mass</td>
<td>• Helped the sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Play with someone who seems lonely</td>
<td>• Loved people whom others did not like</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dear Blessed Mother,

You were loyal to Jesus all your life. You also stood by his side when he suffered, even though it made you suffer, too.

Help me to be loyal to Jesus as you were.

Help me especially to offer to you during this Lent this resolution:
Group 7: The Jewel of Obedience

Goals: Through this group the girls should:

1. review the ideas of becoming like Mary and striving for virtue

2. recognize that obedience is an important virtue, as it involves our YES to God’s will, and brought about the events of our redemption through the YES of Jesus and Mary

3. understand that we can be obedient to God’s will like Jesus and Mary by saying YES to the wishes of parents and all those in authority

Materials Needed

Handouts

Pencils

Crayons or markers

Scissors

Crowns for game

I. Introduction

Prayer: Invite the girls to pray three Hail Marys for their families and those in need.

Activity: Give each girl a paper crown. When the signal is given, she should find the girl who has the same crown. Who will be the last ones standing? Crowns may be switched and the game repeated.

Review

See pages 1 and 2 of the packet. Discuss and review the concept of virtue as necessary.

II. Development: The Virtue of Obedience

A. At the bottom of page 2, have the girls sound out our virtue for this month. It is obedience! (O-bee-D-ants) Ask the following:

- What is obedience?
- Is it sometimes hard to be obedient? Why or why not?
• When were Jesus and Mary obedient? (refer to page 3)

What do all three of the pictures have in common? Jesus and Mary were obedient to whom? To God, by saying a very short, simple word. The word YES! For us, to be obedient means to say YES to God’s will. And God often speaks through people like parents, teachers, priests and sisters. So, when we are saying YES to them, we are actually saying YES to God.

Earlier, some mentioned that it is hard to be obedient, and to say YES, because sometimes parents and teachers ask us to do things that aren’t always easy. Let’s listen to a story, and think about that a little more.

B. Story: The Little Red Hen (see book)

What did the little chicks learn about obedience? They obeyed, said YES to the Red Hen’s wishes. They found that they even enjoyed helping her, and in the end, they were able to share in the bread. What about those who didn’t obey?

Jesus and Mary also said YES when it was difficult, and in the end, what did they experience? The glory of the Resurrection.

C. A Song to Sing

Teach the girls the song:

(Melody: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Mary’s Little Crowns obey,
All that they are told each day.
Mother, Father, teachers, too,
Doing all they ask them to!
Mary’s Little Crowns obey,
All that they are told each day!

Just like Mary you can be
Obedient, joyful, kind, and free.
Just like Jesus, God's own Son,
Who for us redemption won.
Obedient to the cross was he—
Just like Jesus you can be!

When a joyful Yes we say,
Just like Mary we obey.
Doing all that we are told,
Makes our crowns shine pure and gold!

Just like Mary, every day,
Will you be when you obey!

III. Application: An Obedience Game

Direct the girls to the set of crowns on the bottom of page 4. Each girl should have a marker or colored pencil of her favorite color. As the following examples are read, invite the girls to color a jewel each time an example of obedience is read. If the example shows disobedience, they shouldn't color anything. In the end, 5 jewels should be colored. See what little deeds of obedience can do for our Queen's crown?

1. Lori's mom asked her to help her sister with the dishes. Even though she was in the middle of a favorite book, Lori went right away to help out.
2. After lunch each day, Katie is supposed to take out the garbage. She usually does it, but only after her mother has nagged her several times — and then the job gets done late.
3. Kristy makes a special effort to follow directions when they are given at school. This makes her teacher very happy.
4. In religion class, Emily just learned about the ten commandments. Before, she used to take things from her sister's dresser without asking. But now, since she has heard about the commandment, "You shall not steal," she has stopped doing it.
5. Jenny often stays home on weekends with her big sister who babysits her. Even though her sister is not her mom, she tries to do what her sister tells her when her mother isn't there.
6. At school, the students in Kelly's class talk a lot! The teacher often tells them to quiet down, but very few listen to her. Tina feels bad for the teacher, but she continues to talk with her friends because the whole class keeps talking anyway.
7. Theresa really doesn’t like to help out with housework at home. It is hard for her when her mom asks her to help, but she tries to do what her mom asks as best as she can, and right away.

Obedience Banner (see last page)

The girls may decorate and cut out the obedience banner — Encourage them to take it home and hang it somewhere where they will see it often, and be reminded to say YES! The jewels may also be added to the crowns during the project time. If time runs out, the banner may be done at home.

Closing Prayer
I am Mary’s Little Crown!
Look at the pictures of crowns below. Which crown matches the one on top? Find it and color it!

When others look at me as a Little Crown, who do I match up with? In all that I think, say, and do, who do I resemble the most? Write the letters of her name in the boxes below!
I am Mary's Little Crown . . .
of Virtue!!

What is a virtue?
Do you remember? Read the definitions below, and circle the correct one:

- A virtue is a gift that we give to the poor.
- A virtue is a good habit that helps me to be like Jesus and Mary.
- A virtue is something that only priests and sisters practice.
- A virtue is a good deed that we practice during Lent.

Now, draw a line from the definition to the different virtues we have learned about this year. Which is NOT a virtue? Cross it out!

And what is our virtue for this month? See if you can sound it out!
What does it mean to be OBEIDENT?

MARY was obedient when she said YES to God’s wishes at the Annunciation.

JESUS was obedient to Mary as a child. He listened and said YES.

JESUS and MARY were obedient and said YES to the Father’s will, even when it was very hard for them on Good Friday.

To be obedient means:
To say YES to God’s will!
God speaks to me through my mom and dad,
my teachers,
the priests and sisters.
Do I say YES like Jesus and Mary?
A Song to Sing!

(Melody: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Mary's Little Crowns obey,
All that they are told each day.
Mother, Father, teachers, too,
Doing all they ask them to!
Mary's Little Crowns obey,
All that they are told each day!

Just like Mary you can be
Obedient, joyful, kind, and free!
Just like Jesus, God's own Son,
Who for us redemption won.
Obedient to the cross was he—
Just like Jesus you can be!

When a joyful Yes we say,
Just like Mary we obey.
Doing all that we are told,
Makes our crowns shine pure and gold!
Just like Mary, every day,
Will you be when you obey!
My Obedience Banner
Decorate the banner nicely. Hang it in your room as a reminder to always say an obedient YES to God's wishes!
Group 8: The Jewel of Joy

Goals: Through this group the girls should:

1. know the definition of joy and realize that joy as a virtue comes from loving God and knowing that he loves us;

2. remember that true joy comes when we have our love in order: first Jesus, then Others, then Yourself.

3. value Mary’s example of joy, especially when she gave priority to Jesus and those around her — over and above her own wishes and needs — as illustrated in the five joyful mysteries of the rosary.

Materials Needed

Handouts

Story or book - You Are Mine

Crayons or markers

Scissors

Glue/glue sticks

Cards with the letters J, O, and Y for each girl

I. Introduction

Prayer: Have each girl share something that has made her happy today. As a group, pray three Hail Marys in gratitude for these gifts.

Activities: Time to review! “A virtue is a good habit that helps me to do good, and that makes me more like Jesus and Mary!” What are the virtues we have studied so far? Kindness, gratitude, patience (if group met during Advent), and generosity.

Game:

Can You Stay Serious? Have the girls find a partner. When the signal is given, the girls face each other (but not touching) and say, “Can you stay serious?” The object is to remain serious as long as possible without smiling or laughing. The “winners” from the first
• First you love Jesus — and do whatever he asks and wishes of you.
• Secondly, you love Others — and practice love of neighbor as Jesus teaches.
• Thirdly, you love Yourself — this is also important!

Do you see what the letters spell? JOY! This is how we will attain true joy — by having our priorities in order. Jesus comes first, then others, then yourself. Let's think of some examples. Use the cards to show that if we love ourselves first and foremost, (YOJ) the letters don’t “lead” to real joy...

III. Application: Mary's Life: A Life of JOY!

How might this look in the life of the Blessed Mother? We can find out by looking at the joyful mysteries of the rosary.

Each girl receives three cards labeled J, O, or Y. Using pictures or signs with the mysteries printed, work through the joyful mysteries one by one. For each mystery, who was Mary putting first? Invite the girls to hold the correct card high. Point out that in all the joyful mysteries, Mary is following God’s will and is therefore putting him first. That also leads her to love and serve those around her in a joyful way. Therefore we can call her the Cause of our Joy!

A Craft: “Smile, God Loves You” project

Closing Prayer
You Are Mine
by Max Lucado

Punchinello lived in Wemmicksville. Just like other Wemmicks, he was made of wood. Just like the other Wemmicks, he was carved by Eli, the Wemmick-maker. And just like the other Wemmicks, he sometimes did silly things. Like the time he began collecting boxes and balls. Things started getting crazy when a Wemmick named Tuck bought a new box. Others had boxes, but Tuck’s was a new box.

Tuck loved his new box. He thought it was the best box in the village. It was orange and striped, and he was proud of it – too proud perhaps. He strutted up and down the street showing off his box.

“Have you seen my new box?” he would ask the Wemmicks he passed on the street. “Would you like to touch my new box?”

Tuck marched right up to Punchinello. “Don’t you wish you had a new box?” he teased.

Punchinello thought Tuck’s box was beautiful, and he began to wish for a box of his own. Tuck kept showing off his box, thinking he was better than the other Wemmicks just because he had a new box.

Nip, another Wemmick, disagreed. “My box is just as good as Tuck’s,” he said, as he showed off his box to Wemmicks on the other side of the street. Nip’s box was not new, but it was a bit bigger and a bit brighter and – a bit more than Tuck could take.

Tuck got very quiet and gave Nip a mad look. Then he had an idea. He stepped into a store and bought a ball. Now he had more things than Nip. He had a box and a ball.

Nip frowned at Tuck’s ball. Nip could do better than that. He bought two balls. With a smile on his face, two balls and a box in his hands, he marched over to Tuck and smirked, “Now I have more than you!”

Before he knew it, Tuck was in the store buying another box. Then Nip ran to buy another Ball. Then Tuck bought a ball, and Nip bought a box.

Ball. Box. Ball. Box.

Tuck. Nip. Nip. Tuck. On and on it went. Someone could have stopped the whole mess right there. In fact, that’s what the mayor tried to do. “You two are being silly,” he said to Nip and Tuck. “Why, who cares who has the most toys?”

“You’re just jealous,” they replied, “because you don’t have any.” “Jealous? Of you? Ha!” But within a few moments the mayor was in the store buying an armful of boxes and balls.
Other Wemmicks began to join in. The butcher. The baker. The cabinetmaker. The doctor from up the street and the dentist from down the street. Before long every Wemmick wanted to be the one with the most boxes and balls.

Some boxes were big, and some were bright. Some balls were heavy, and some were light. Tall people carried them. Small people carried them. Everybody carried them. And everybody thought the same thought. Good Wemmicks have a lot. Not-so-good Wemmicks have little. Having a lot is what brings us joy.

When a Wemmick walked down the center of Wemmicksville with a stack of balls and boxes higher than his head, the people stopped. “Now there goes a happy Wemmick,” they would say. But when a Wemmick passed by with only one ball or one box, the others would shake their heads and think, maybe even whisper, “Poor Wemmick. Poor, poor Wemmick.”

Of course, Punchinello didn’t want to be called a poor Wemmick, so he decided to get as many boxes and balls as he could. He searched through his closet and found one little ball. He dug into his pocket and found enough money for one small box.

“I know what I’ll do,” he declared. “I’ll sell my books to get more money to buy more boxes and balls.”

So he did. He bought a blue and green box with clouds painted on the sides. But he still wanted more. “I’ll work nights to get extra money,” he told himself. So he did, and bought a ball. And since he was working nights, he didn’t need his bed, so he decided, “I’ll sell my bed.” And he did just that, to buy two more balls.

Soon Punchinello had an armful. But other Wemmicks had more. Some of them had so many boxes and balls, they actually had trouble walking. “It’s hard keeping up with all these balls and boxes,” they would say, acting like they were complaining, but really they were bragging.

Punchinello wanted to be like these Wemmicks, so he sold more stuff, and he worked more hours. His eyes were tired from not getting any sleep. His arms were tired from carrying toys. He couldn’t remember when he last sat down to rest. And, worst of all, his friends couldn’t remember when Punchinello last came to play.

“We haven’t seen you for a long time,” his friend Lucia said to him one day.

“Why don’t you come and play again?” asked his buddy Splint.

Not everyone cared about boxes and balls. Punchinello’s friends didn’t. But Punchinello cared more about having boxes and balls than he cared about having friends. “I’ve got work to do, he would tell them. And his friends would sigh. Punchinello didn’t care. He only cared what the other box-and-ball people thought. And no matter what he did, he couldn’t buy enough things to get their attention.

Punchinello didn’t know, but he didn’t care. All he could think about was the boxes and balls he would have with all that money. So he sold his house. He bought boxes and boxes and boxes and balls and balls and more balls. He carried so many toys, he couldn’t see where he was going. His stack went way above his head.

But he didn’t mind. So what if his arms ached? So what if he kept walking into walls? So what if he had no friends? He had boxes and balls, and when he passed Wemmicks, they would turn and say, “Wow, he must be a good Wemmick.” Punchinello heard them. He couldn’t see them, but he heard them, and he felt good. I’m a good and happy Wemmick, he thought.

But then somebody changed the rules. It was the mayor’s wife. She was very proud of her boxes and balls. She not only had a lot of them, but she also had special kinds of them. She bought them at the fanciest stores with funny names and left the names on the boxes so everyone would see them. She wanted to be the best Wemmick.

One day she had an idea. “Not only will I have the most, but I will go the highest.” So she climbed on top of one of her boxes and shouted, “Look at me, everybody!”

Immediately all of the box-and-ball people tried to outdo her. One climbed on a fountain, another on a balcony, and then another onto a roof. It was the mayor who spotted the mountain, however. Behind the village of the Wemmick’s was Wemmick’s peak. “I’m going to the top of the mountain,” he shouted, hoping to get there first. The race was on to see which Wemmick would have the most and climb the highest. Wemmicks loaded with boxes and balls began running up the mountain.

It was a crazy, crazy race. Since the wooden people couldn’t see where they were going, they bumped into each other. Since they were exhausted, they fell over their own feet. Since the trail was narrow, some fell down the side of it. But they kept going.

Bringing up the rear was Punchinello. He was having a hard climb, harder than the rest. After all, he’d only been a “good Wemmick” for a short time. He wasn’t used to carrying so many boxes and balls. But he was determined. He kept putting one little wooden foot ahead of the other. But since he couldn’t see, he didn’t know he was on the side of the trail.

And since he couldn’t see, he didn’t know that he had left the trail. All he knew was that— all of a sudden — he was all alone. I must be ahead of everyone else! He thought to himself. And so he kept climbing up and up and up. I must be very near the top. I’m such a good Wemmick; I’ll be the highest with the most.

About that time, Punchinello’s foot caught the edge of something. He tried to keep his bal-
ance – his toys swayed to the right and then to the left. He leaned back, then forward, but he couldn’t stop. He was going to fall. He didn’t know, however, that he had walked up the trail to Eli’s house. He tripped on the step of the porch and tumbled through the front door of Eli’s workshop.

When Punchinello realized where he was, he was embarrassed. For a long time he stayed facedown on the floor, surrounded by his boxes and balls. One of the balls rolled across the floor and stopped at Eli’s workbench. That’s when the woodcarver turned around. “Punchinello.” Eli’s voice was calm and deep and kind.

The Wemmick still didn’t move. He could feel his wooden face turning red.

“Looks like you’ve been carrying a big load.”

The weary Wemmick climbed to his knees but kept his head low. “These are my boxes and balls,” he said quietly.

“Do you play with the boxes and balls?” asked Eli.

Punchinello shook his head.

“Do you like boxes and balls?”

“I like the way they make me feel.”

“And how do they make you feel?”

“Important,” Punchinello answered, still with a small voice.

“Hmmmm,” Eli observed, “so you’ve been thinking like the other Wemmicks. You’ve been thinking that the more you have, the better you are, and the happier you’ll be.”

“I suppose so.”

“Come here, Punchinello. I want to show you something.”

Punchinello lifted his wooden head and looked at Eli for the first time. He was relieved to see that the Wemmick-maker wasn’t angry. Punchinello followed Eli over to the window.

“Look at them,” Eli said.

Punchinello looked out the window at the swarm of Wemmicks still climbing the mountain. They were tumbling, stumbling, fighting each other, even elbowing each other to get ahead.
"Do they look happy?" Eli asked.

Punchinello just shook his head.

"Do they look important?"

"Not at all," Punchinello said, noticing the mayor and his wife. The mayor was on the ground, and she was stepping on his back. She had a box on her head, and he had a ball in his mouth.

"Do you think I created Wemmicks to act that way?" asked Eli.

"No."

Punchinello felt a big hand on his shoulder. "Do you know how much your boxes and balls cost you?"

"My books and bed. My money and my house."

"My little friend, they cost you more than that."

Punchinello was trying to remember what else he had sold when Eli continued. "They cost you happiness. You haven’t been happy, have you?"

Punchinello paused. "No."

"They cost you friends. And most of all, they cost you trust. You didn’t trust me to make you happy. You trusted these boxes and balls."

Punchinello looked at the pile of toys. All of a sudden they didn’t seem so valuable. "I kind of messed up."


Punchinello ducked his head and smiled.

"You’re special – not because of what you have. You’re special because of who you are. You are mine. I love you. Don’t forget that, little friend."

"I won’t," Punchinello smiled. Then he paused and asked, "Eli?"

"Yes."

"What should I do with these boxes and balls?"
“Perhaps you should give them to someone who really needs them.” Punchinello turned to leave, but stopped again. “Eli?”

“You?”

“I don’t have a place to sleep.”

Eli smiled and offered, “Would you like to sleep here tonight?”

“I sure would. I’m very tired.”

And so that night Punchinello slept on a bed of wood shavings. He slept well. It felt good to be in the house of his maker.
Joy is knowing ... That God loves you!

1. Cut out the heart on the solid lines.
2. Fold the heart on the dotted lines.
3. Decorate the face with crayons, markers, buttons, pompons, etc.
4. Cut the strip on the solid lines, and fold on the dotted lines. Apply glue and insert the strip at the bottom between the two sides of the hearts.

1 John 4:19
He first loved us.
We love because
God loves you.

Smile

By Jenette Selders

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Group 9: The Jewel of Honesty

Goals: Through this group the girls should:
1. be reminded that an honest person doesn’t lie, cheat, or steal
2. grow in their longing to imitate Mary’s honesty and purity of heart
3. learn practical ways of applying the virtue of honesty in daily life
4. “wrap-up” the year of striving as Mary’s Little Crowns of Virtue

Materials needed:
Handouts
Pencils
Markers or crayons
Glue
Tape
Scissors
Virtue-bee craft kits (or paper patterns)

I. Introduction

Prayer: Have the girls repeat the lines of the prayer:

   I trust your might, your kindness, Mother dear,
   I do believe that you are always near.
   Schoenstatt’s great Queen, O Mother mild,
   I blindly trust in you and in your Child!

Activity: Virtue Maze (see p. 1 of handouts)

II. Development:
A. The Virtue of Honesty

- What does it mean to be honest? Ask the girls for definitions and examples.

- To discover more clearly, let’s sing a song about honesty! (See p. 2 handouts —
  may be accompanied with the following actions). After the song is finished, have
the girls write the three points that honesty includes: telling the truth, not cheating, and not taking others things.

Tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”

Being honest means you always tell the truth. (clap, clap)
Being honest means you always tell the truth. (clap, clap)
Telling lies will make us sad, but the truth will make us glad. (facial expressions)
Being honest means you always tell the truth. (clap, clap)

Being honest means you don’t take others’ things. (clap, clap)
Being honest means you don’t take others’ things. (clap, clap)
Taking others’ things is stealing and that’s surely not appealing. (shake finger)
Being honest means you don’t take others’ things. (clap, clap)

Being honest means you never ever cheat. (clap, clap)
Being honest means you never ever cheat. (clap, clap)
Do your work and do it right. You’ll be pleasing in God’s sight. (point to eyes)
Being honest means you never ever cheat. (clap, clap)

Being honest means don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t cheat. (clap, clap)
Being honest means don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t cheat. (clap, clap)
Being honest is the best — if we’re not, (speak emphatically) WE’LL HAVE A MESS!
Being honest means don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t cheat. (clap, clap)

B. Like Mary, A Pure and Honest Heart

Read and discuss p. 3 of the handouts. We can imitate Mary’s honesty by having a pure heart — a heart that never wants to hurt others, deceive them, or take something that belongs to them. Think for a moment:
• How do YOU feel when someone hurts you, or doesn’t tell the truth, or takes something that is yours? Such things usually make us feel bad. We don’t know if we can really trust that person anymore.

We know that we can ALWAYS trust Mary to be honest, because her heart was pure.

• Read the different examples inside the heart. How can you imitate Mary’s honesty and purity of heart? Circle those you would like to do.

III. Application: Little Crowns of Virtue “Wrap-Up”

Review all of the virtues we’ve learned about this year. We have really worked hard, and made a beautiful crown of jewels for our Blessed Mother! That is an extra-special gift that we can give to her this May.

• Invite the girls to think about their favorite virtue, and circle it in the list.

• Have them print their first/last name in the Little Crown certificate.

• Using the craft kits or patterns, make a “Virtue Bee.” The girls should take it home and put it in a place where they will see it often. The “virtue” printed on each one’s bee should be her special task during the month of May.

Closing Prayer

Invite the girls to pray out loud, sharing the virtue they liked learning about the most, and the prayer/activity they enjoyed the most during this year.

Finish the prayer by expressing gratitude for the time spent together, and anticipating the beginning of a new year of meetings in September. In gratitude, offer a Hail Mary together.
Mary's Little Crowns of Virtue

What is our virtue for this month? First of all, help the little angel find her way through the maze!

What is the treasure she found? Go back and gather all the letters she passed on the way, and write them in the boxes below, to find the treasure, and our virtue for this month!
Let's sing a song about

Honesty

Being honest means you always tell the truth.
Being honest means you always tell the truth.
Telling lies will make us sad, but the truth will make us glad.
Being honest means you always tell the truth.

Being honest means you don’t take others’ things.
Being honest means you don’t take others’ things.
Taking others’ things is stealing and that’s surely not appealing.
Being honest means you don’t take others’ things.

Being honest means you never ever cheat.
Being honest means you never ever cheat.
Do your work and do it right. You’ll be pleasing in God’s sight.
Being honest means you never ever cheat.

Being honest means don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t cheat.
Being honest means don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t cheat.
Being honest is the best - if we’re not, WE’LL HAVE A MESS!
Being honest means don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t cheat.

Being honest means that we never ever:
1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3. _______________________
How did Mary practice honesty? She never lied, or stole someone else's things, or cheated. She never wanted to take something that belonged to someone else. She never wanted to hurt anyone else! This is because her HEART was honest and good. Like Mary, we want to work on making our own HEARTS pure and honest!

A Pure and Honest Heart

How can you make your heart like Mary's heart? Read the resolutions inside the heart. Circle the ones that would help you to have a pure and honest heart like hers!

I won't steal others' things! I won't always keep my promises!

I won't ever cheat on my schoolwork! I won't say bad things about others!

I will always try to tell the truth, and never tell lies!
"Bee" Mary's Little

It's hard to believe, but we have studied all of these virtues! Do you remember something about each one? The most important thing is that each time we practice them, we earn a beautiful jewel for Mary's crown!

Kindness
Gratitude
Patience
Generosity
Joy
Loyalty
Obedience
Honesty

Which virtue is your favorite? Circle it, and practice it often!

This certificate is to certify that_________________________
(your name)

has decorated Mary's crown with beautiful jewels of virtue.

Congratulations!

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