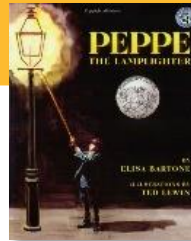


FOURTH GRADE SUGGESTIONS:

WHEN TO TEACH THE THEMES

PEPPE THE LAMPLIGHTER

By Elisa Bartone



Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
DIGNITY OF WORK & GIFT OF SELF	Feast of St. Theodore Guerin (Oct. 3 rd) She left her home in France to minister to the increasing Catholics in Indiana. There she established orphanages and schools.	<i>“God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and has destined us to share in that exchange.”</i> (CCC 221) God has revealed that he is a total gift of self. Humans, both male and female, have been created in the image of God (A Total Gift of Self) and thus bear the imprint of their creator’s call to self-gift within their anatomy.
	Feast of St. Albert the Great (Nov. 15 th) He was the teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas.	We are called to give of ourselves to others out of love. This is our purpose on Earth. St. John Paul II repeats the quote, “man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.” (<i>Gaudium et Spes</i> 24:3) many times throughout the <i>Theology of the Body</i> . We understand that true happiness is not found in taking from others, but in the very act of giving to others out of love.
	Feast of Bl. Fra Angelico (Feb. 8 th) He created beautiful Catholic artwork about Mary and the saints. Feast of St. Gianna Molla (Apr. 28 th) While pregnant with her fourth child she chose to carry her child to full term even though she had health issues.	Teachers can incorporate this fundamental truth into their everyday language by asking, <i>“Who would like to make a gift of themselves by holding the door today?”</i>
SUFFERING, SIN & TRANSFORMATION	Feast of St. Augustine (Aug. 28 th) He was living a sinful life and chose to change his lifestyle. St. Augustine became a bishop and is now a Doctor of the Church.	We are created in the image and likeness of God. Due to the Fall, we all experience the effects of Original Sin. This means at times it is hard for us to recognize the gifts God is giving us and be a gift of self to those we encounter. We struggle in our relationships with nature, others, and God. This leads to suffering in our lives.

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<p style="text-align: center;">SUFFERING, SIN & TRANSFORMATION (Continued)</p>	<p>Feast of Mary Undoer of Knots (Sept. 28th) When a couple was struggling in their marriage a priest told them to turn to Mary to help them undo knots to resolve problems in their marriage.</p> <p>Feast of St. Charles Borromeo (Nov. 4th) He chose to stay with the Church and lead internal reforms instead of joining the Protestant Reformation.</p> <p>Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (Feb. 11th) Many individuals have found physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritual healing from asking for her intercession and visiting this apparition site.</p> <p>Feast of Mary Magdalene (July 22nd) She led a sinful life and changed her ways when she met Jesus.</p>	<p>The good news is that transformation and redemption are possible! St. Paul tells us in Romans 5:20 that “<i>where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.</i>” One way we receive grace is through the Sacraments. Frequent reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist help us to authentically live out our identity as sons and daughters of the Lord. They give us the grace to overcome temptations and resist sin.</p> <p>God also asks us to unite our sufferings with him on the cross. This means when we are suffering we can say, “<i>Lord, I give you this pain I am experiencing right now. I am not going to complain. Instead I am going to offer it to you as a form of prayer for a specific prayer intention. Please take this offering of my pain and bestow grace upon this intention.</i>” In this way fruit can come from our sufferings.</p> <p>St. John Paul II stated that “<i>Those who share in the sufferings of Christ are also called, through their own sufferings, to share in glory.</i>” (Salvific Doloris 22) This means our story does not end in suffering and defeat. We have the promise of eternal life in heaven where we will become one with God.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENTALITY OF CREATION</p>	<p>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Sept. 1st) In 2015 Pope Francis stated the Catholic Church now recognized this day.</p> <p>St. Hildegard (Sept. 17th) She was known for using plants for medicinal purposes.</p> <p>Earth Day (April 22nd)</p>	<p>All of creation is a gift from God to mankind. Through the lens of the <i>Theology of the Body</i> we see God’s creation (animals, nature, each other, etc.) not as scary, but as a <i>loving gift from God</i>.</p> <p>A Sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible grace. In this way all creation has the ability to act as a sacrament. Humanity experiences God, the invisible, through the visible creation. Being in awe of a sunset or a mountain range leads us to encountering God in creation. Creation is sacramental.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">REDEMPTION</p>	<p>Exaltation of the Cross (Sept 14th) Jesus's death on the cross lead to the redemption of humanity.</p> <p>Feast of St. Padre Pio (Sept. 23rd) He was known for hearing confessions for long hours.</p> <p>Christmas Season (God became man to redeem humanity.)</p> <p>Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25th) Mary's yes to becoming the Mother of God opened the door for Christ's coming to Earth to redeem humanity.</p> <p>Easter Season</p>	<p>We are created in the image and likeness of God. Due to Original Sin, we struggle to be a gift of self, specifically in our relationships with God, nature, and others. We also struggle to recognize the gifts God has given us.</p> <p>The good news is that God has provided a plan for the redemption of our lives. God became man for us. While on Earth, Christ gave a complete gift of himself when he died on the cross. It is through this gift that we have the opportunity to be forgiven for the times we fail to love as we should.</p> <p>Christ also gave us the gift of the Sacraments, which give us the grace to live a holy life. These Sacraments allow us to more fully live our deepest identity as sons and daughters of God. For example, the grace we receive during Reconciliation and from the Eucharist help us overcome our temptations and resist sin.</p>