

## **Classroom Activities:**

### **The Washing of the Feet**

When I taught CCD, I was blessed to teach the Holy Communion grade for my parish (3rd grade). One of the most memorable classes I taught was when I allowed the children to interact in a role playing of the “Washing of the Feet”. I began by playing religious music in the background, along with dimmed lights. I recommend the soundtrack from the film “The Passion of the Christ”. Then I had all of my students bring their chairs together in the form of a circle. This served a representation of the disciples. My role was to represent Jesus. I went around the circle and washed each student’s feet. Yes, there were a few giggles, but this served as a very moving activity that allowed students time away from their desks. Having the students interact in this activity allowed them to better understand what it was like to be a follower of Christ on Holy Thursday. I encourage all teachers to try this on their own and watch their student’s reactions closely. It was very rewarding!

- Holly Benner  
National Coordinator MCA

### **Prayer Partner Pairing**

In order to assign prayer partners, it is recommended that younger students be paired with older students. These older students will serve as a lay-person mentor throughout the Lenten season. Examples include: pairing Kindergarten students with 8th grade students, pairing 1st grade students with 7th grade students, etc.

Prayer partners can attend various Lenten services together including receiving of their ashes on Ash Wednesday, all in school masses held throughout the season, as well as Stations of the Cross.

### **Creative Crosses**

Lent is a period where we reflect on the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus. Seeing as this season is centered around the cross, student’s may use their creativity to construct individual crosses out of various materials. Examples include: food items, pipe cleaners, wood, construction paper, etc. Encourage students to be as original as possible. Students may exchange their homemade crosses with their prayer partners at some point during the Lenten season.