

## **PREP Homily – September 14 and 15, 2011**

There is a childhood story that most of us have heard at some point in our lives called *The Three Little Pigs*. This story is about three pigs that are now old enough to go out into the world on their own. The pigs decide to build three houses for themselves but each one from different materials. The first two would rather have fun and play than to build something that will take a lot of work. The first little pig is a lazy pig. He would rather play soccer, or play X-Box or play with his friends, so he uses only straw to build his house. The second little pig is lazy too. He would rather play hockey or just watch TV or play with his friends, so he uses only sticks to build his house. The third little pig is much more sensible than his two brothers though. He thinks things over and decides it would be a better idea to use bricks instead. He doesn't succumb to the quick or easy way to build. The first two pigs tease and poke fun at their brother for wasting all his time building his house out of bricks.

Then suddenly one day the wolf comes knocking. He goes to the first house that's made of straw. The wolf huffs and puffs and down the straw house goes. The pig runs to his brother's house that's made of sticks. "Awe, I am safe now," the pig says to himself. But then the wolf goes over to the house that's made of sticks. The wolf huffs and puffs and down the stick house goes. So, the two pigs run to their brother's house that's made of bricks. The house made of bricks withstands the power of the wolf, no matter how much he huffs and puffs. The third little pig's house won't go down because he built a dwelling place that is strong and secure. The third pig tells his brothers that he built a big enough house for all three of them and they can both now live with him.

Which little piggy do you think you probably would act most like?

Today we begin the first night of PREP. We can either build our faith with straw and sticks or we can build a strong faith with bricks that can withstand the power of the devil. The choice we make is ours alone.

Much like the first two pigs, we may want to just play and have fun all the time instead of building a strong house of faith. Those who are building a strong

house of faith will sometimes be teased and be laughed at. However, it is important to build a strong house of faith that can withstand the power of the devil.

If we build our faith with bricks, a faith strong and secure, no matter how much Satan huffs and puffs, or tempts us to do wrong, he will not be able to tear down our house of faith. Yes, it will be a lot of hard work but in the end we will share with Jesus in His heavenly banquet. Will you be ready to meet Jesus? PREP is a good time for you to work on this.

What are some of the bricks that we will use in PREP this year to build our house?

There will be the brick of Prayer. From this brick you will learn more about ways of praying. How to pray to God, how to pray at Mass, how to pray with your family, and how to pray for your needs are all very important.

The brick of God. You will learn more who God is and how to have a closer relationship with God.

The brick of your faith. You will learn more about your Catholic faith and to be able to tell others about your faith.

The brick of love. You will learn how to love God, love your neighbour and love yourself.

The brick of forgiveness. You will learn how to forgive others and yourself. You will also learn about Jesus' forgiveness in the special Sacrament of Confession, or, as we sometimes call it, the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The brick of the Church. Here, you will learn more about your Church that you worship in.

The brick of the Mass. You will learn how the Mass is celebrated and what is your own special role in the Mass.

The brick of the Sacraments. You will learn about the seven Sacraments and what they mean for you personally.

The brick of the Trinity. You will learn that God is a family of three Persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is a special year for the grade two's because they will be preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. They will be using many other special bricks to learn about Jesus and how He gives us the very special gift of Himself in Holy Communion so that we will not be spiritually hungry.

It is also a special year for the grade seven's as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the completion of their Baptism. They will especially be using bricks of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They will be learning that there are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They will learn that because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong when they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This year's school theme is "Serve with joyful hearts." As part of this theme you will use many special bricks to learn how to serve one another. These bricks will also help you to build a strong house of faith. Some of these bricks will include having a joyful heart in helping your mother with the dishes, looking after your younger brother or sister, being respectful to your parents and teachers, being kind to one another, being forgiving, etc.

These bricks I've mentioned are only a few of the bricks that you will be using to build your house of faith. You don't want to miss any classes because you need every brick to build your house.

Your PREP teacher will help you to select the very best bricks and not only that, your teacher will help you build your house of faith. And your parents will also help you build your house of faith. So, it will be very important to listen to your teacher and parents, and to also be attentive in class and do your homework.

May God bless you and help you this year as you build your strong house of faith and serve your brothers and sisters with a joyful heart.