

9. We are certainly influenced today by TV ads and shows. Advertisers try to make us buy their products. With your parent's permission, watch 5 TV shows and write down the main message of each show. What values were important in each show? Are they the same values that are important to you? Why or why not? What kind of show do you like to see on TV? Write to a TV station and express your views. Put a carbon copy of the letter in your log along with your answers to the above questions.

10. Write a brief history of your parish. This will take some research. Include the year it was founded, first pastor and recent pastor and assistants, list of parish activities, parish activities in which you take part, those your family belong to, and sacraments you have received. Interview 3 older members of the parish and summarize in your log what they consider the most important facet of the parish to them and how they contribute to the life of the parish. How do you personally contribute to the life of your parish?

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I, the Parent (or Guardian) of \_\_\_\_\_  
Recommend that my child be considered for the Catholic Youth Organization Religion Award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

I, the teacher of \_\_\_\_\_  
Certify that this is his/her best work and should be considered for the Catholic Youth Organization Religion Award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher or Catechist

Will the teacher or parent kindly initial month as you review the monthly project with the student.

Oct. \_\_\_\_\_ Nov. \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. \_\_\_\_\_

Jan. \_\_\_\_\_ Feb. \_\_\_\_\_ March \_\_\_\_\_

Recommend for project material-loose leaf in a folder to be reviewed monthly and bound for final approval. No project will be accepted after April 1st.

Diocese of Allentown

C.Y.O.

Religion Award

Grade 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

In order to assist the Catholic children of the Diocese of Allentown to grow with their God, parish and community, the C.Y.O. offers this religious award program. This award is designed to promote your spiritual growth.

In order to achieve this award, you must complete one activity each month. All requirements must be fulfilled within the school year and submitted for final review by April 1st. Completed booklets are to be submitted to the coordinator of your parish/school religious education or the designated representative (s). Each child will be required to supply and maintain a loose leaf project notebook as a record of achievement.

Grade 8 concentrates on the Beatitudes.

Choose Six Projects (One per month)  
The Beatitudes

1. "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT: THE REIGN OF GOD IS THEIRS"  
Offer to baby sit free for a needy family—could be for parents of several small children or a mother whose husband is away or separated. Record four occasions and the amount of time that you spent helping in this manner. For one special occasion—Thanksgiving, Christmas, or a birthday—bring a special treat to the family (could be favors you made or a treat of ice cream). Check with the parent on this. How has this month's project made you more aware of the needs of those less fortunate?

2. "BLESSED ARE THE SORROWFUL: THEY SHALL BE CONSOLED"  
With your parent's permission, visit a shut-in or elderly person near your home; go to the store for them, read to them, offer to write a letter or do some other chore around the house. Be friendly. Write down four occasions when you stopped in to see them and what you did together. In a composition, tell what you will do when your own parents get older and cannot care for themselves. Then ask your adopted shut-in to respond to your thoughts. Write down the response.

3. "BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR HOLINESS; THEY SHALL HAVE THEIR FILL"  
During this month, lector at one Mass. If that is impossible, attend daily Mass for one week. Look up the readings for the day and write seven brief summaries—one per day—of the Reading and gospel. Look through the A.D. Times and select one message of Our Holy father. In your Log, list five of the main points. How do you as a Christian, intend to fulfill these points?

4. "BLESSED ARE THEY WHO SHOW MERCY: MERCY SHALL BE THEIRS"  
Visit a seminary—St. Charles, Overbrook; Jesuit Novitiate, Wernersville; Oblates of St. Francis deSales, Center valley; Trappist, New Ringgold; or the Motherhouse of a community: Immaculate Heart Sisters, Immaculata; Precious Blood Sisters, Shillington; Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Hyde Park; Bernadine Sisters, Alvernia. Interview one aspirant, (person studying to be a religious) on the quality of mercy in their lives. Summarize your interview and write out your own explanation of this Beatitude in your life. Submit an article on your experience to your school paper, local paper, or A.D. Times newspaper. Include a carbon copy of your letter in your log book.

5. "BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE-HEARTED, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD"  
We are here to do God's will. That must be our single purpose in life. Under the supervision of parent, teacher, priest, or sister, design and produce a bulletin board to be used in your school or classroom, or a banner to be used in the church or chapel this month. In your log: What is God's Will for you right now? In 5 or 10 years? How will you accomplish His Will for you? Ask the person who helped you with the bulletin board or banner to write a response to your questions.

6. "BLESSED TOO, THE PEACEMAKERS: THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD"  
Design a game to be used with younger children. Ask a teacher in the primary grades if you can assist at play time in the yard Why are moderators needed to keep peace in the school yard?

Tell how you have been peacemakers in your family or school at least four times this month. Look up the Bishop's document against nuclear war and write out 10 major points. (Many articles and editorials have been written on this in the secular and religious press. Check with your local library.) Do you agree or disagree with the Bishop's statement? Why?

7. "BLESSED ARE THOSE PERSECUTED FOR HOLINESS SAKE, THE REIGN OF GOD IS THEIRS"  
Many young teens get depressed, even to the point of taking their own lives. Write down 10 factors that make you very depressed. Then write down 10 ways to combat these feelings. Tell how cliques have influenced your life for the better or worse (peer pressure, especially by a certain group) and what you as a Christian are doing presently to make sure others you know are not "persecuted" for the way they dress or talk or look. Ask an adult to write down 5 ways they handle "down" times in their lives.

8. "BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY INSULT YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER EVERY KIND OF SLANDER AGAINST YOU BECAUSE OF ME"  
Write about a local hero, someone you know who has risen above many obstacles and made something of himself/herself especially as a Catholic/Christian. In a second paragraph, tell what kind of hero you would like to become. Say a decade of the Rosary each day this month, possibly at bedtime. Ask for guidance of the Holy Spirit. After a month, did your ideas on a long-range goal or the way to obtain it change? Note it in your log book.