



John XXIII Montessori Children's Center

CGS Atrium Newsletter ~ Easter, Spring 2006

Easter tide is a time for us to enjoy this season of celebration

and to ponder anew the mystery of the Resurrection and the gift of Baptism. The children were welcomed back to the Atrium after Easter with a celebration of the Liturgy of the Light. This para-liturgy incorporates elements from the Easter Vigil. We enter a darkened Atrium in procession with the Paschal candle. Individual candles for each child to hold are lighted from this candle with the prayer "May the light of the Risen Christ always burn in your heart." As the previously dark room becomes gradually bathed in beautiful candlelight, we contemplate how through His resurrection, Jesus gives each of us a share in His Light and Life. We notice how instead of diminishing as each candle is lighted, the "Light of Christ" grows. A favorite song at this time is one which proclaims "I see the Light of Christ in you."

This strong image of the Light of Christ becomes a direct link with the Baptism work in which we look at how the graces of Baptism are the gift of a share in the Light and Life of the Risen Christ. The children instinctively know that this Light of Christ which they again can hold in their hands in the Baptism work, is really one that is within each of our hearts. The simplicity of the children's enjoyment of the Light serves as a model for how we all are invited to enjoy and celebrate our share in this great gift!

We are pleased to announce that this year's new Catechists are all returning next year!

Jenny Luetkemeyer, Karen Primeau and Michelle Castellan will be continuing their wonderful work with us at the JXXIIIMCC for the upcoming year. We are so appreciative of all they have done this past year and look forward to having them with us again next year. We also will have some returning familiar faces in our Assistants, as well as welcoming and training some new ones. Thank you to all our volunteer Assistants, especially to the college students who have worked with the children this spring while earning credit for student teaching. It has been a great mutual benefit to have them.

Interviews and visits for new 3 year olds of currently registered families

will be conducted both this week and next week in the 3-6 Atria. If you intend to register a three year old for next year, please contact your older child's Catechist if you haven't heard from her already in order to schedule a visit for your child.

Atrium Calendar at-a-glance

May 13th – First Communion at St. John's

May 17-18 – Last Atrium session - Pentecost Celebration
(Remember to pick up your child's spare clothing!)

June 1st – Pre-registration deadline for current families.

Spring Pre-registration is now underway for our current families. Attached you will find a Registration form for the 2006-2007 Atrium year. To reserve a spot for your child(ren) as well as to register new three year old siblings, please return the form and fees by **June 1st**. We will be filling Atrium sessions as we receive registrations and the \$50.00 sum of registration and materials fees for each child. After June 1st, any remaining spaces will also be made available to those on our waiting list. As always, the \$25.00 registration fee is non-refundable and will be applied to your first monthly or semester payment. The \$25.00 materials fee portion of this sum is refundable should your schedule or plans change for the upcoming year.

Please note on the Registration form the days and times that Atrium sessions will likely be offered next year. There are some potential changes and an additional 6-9 Atrium session is being considered to accommodate our growing numbers. Please check your preferences. We will do our best to accommodate your requests while striving to maintain a balance of ages and genders as well as preserving the integrity of this year's relationships.

Nellie Organ was only four years old when permission was given for her to receive Holy Communion. On reading about her life and holiness a short time after her death at age 4 ½, St. Pius X was inspired to lower the age for First Holy Communion. An excerpt from a manuscript about Nellie is included below and her Holy Card is attached to this newsletter. Nellie's complete story may be found in the book, [Princesses of the Kingdom](#), Jacinta Marto and [Nellie Organ](#), by the same author, available from theotokos.org.uk/leomadigan

When Nellie was just three years of age, her mother died. Being left with four young children, Nellie's father was forced to send Nellie and her sister to stay with the Good Shepherd Nuns at their convent. It was here that "Nellie was told about Our Lord's life, and afterwards she always asked constantly for 'the story of Holy God as a child.' Passing a statue of the Sacred Heart she said, 'It is God.' One day in the cloister she stopped before a statue of Our Lady and the Divine Child with the world in his hand. 'If you give me your ball,' said Nellie, 'I will give you my shoes.'

Nurse said, 'Nellie, you can't get that.' 'He can give them if he likes,' answered Nellie confidently.

There was a statue of the Infant of Prague in the Infirmary, and Nellie at first took it for a doll. When she was told it was Holy God as a child she became interested. When Nellie was sick, Nurse Hall made a novena to the Infant of Prague for her. When at the end of the novena she felt better and was able to get up, Nellie was greatly impressed.

One day when Nurse Hall was ill, Nellie called a girl, 'Quick, quick, bring Holy God, put him on the chair near me, it is he that will cure Mama, (as she called Nurse Hall) you will see.' Then she embraced the statue and put it on the ground and said, 'Now, little Jesus, dance for me.'

'What nonsense,' said the girl. 'You know he can't dance.' And she went on with her work. Nellie took her little trumpet, began blowing, and called out enraptured, 'Look, look, see how he dances.' Another girl came but they saw nothing except Nellie, sparkling eyes and cheeks aglow. When Nellie was not able to blow anymore, she called on the others to 'blow more music.' In a few moments she called out, 'He has stopped!' and her face regained its usual calm. One of the Sisters, hearing of this incident, said, 'Dear Lord, if you really did dance for Nellie, give us money for a bakehouse which we badly need.' A few days later £300 came from a lady marked: For A Bakehouse."

- from [Little Nellie](#), by [Leo Madigan](#)



