Forming Christian children through Catholic rituals at home and in the classroom

- What does it mean to be Christian: missionary discipleship.
  - personal encounter with Jesus Christ,
  - in a particular community,
  - sent to the whole world.

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- How do we do this?
  - Ritual.
  - Apprenticeship in a way of life.
- Why ritual?
  - anthropological universality: meaning making.
  - pedagogical value: communal and personal.
  - liturgical primacy: source and summit.

“And you, child, will be called Prophet of the Most High...”
- Luke 1:76
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- Baptismal Question serves to establish a covenant between parents and the parish community: “...you are agreeing to raise them in the practice of the Christian faith. Do you clearly understand...?”
- Home as domestic Church, a “school of the Lord’s service.”
- Parish as local community that equips families with the means to both see themselves as and be capacitated for participating in the sanctifying work of the liturgy in the world: “Ite, missa est!” “...glorify the Lord by your lives.”

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- What kinds of rituals? When?
  - Daily - meals, practice of prayer (Hours), blessings;
  - Weekly - Sundays (Eucharist), scripture, reflection;
  - Annually - the liturgical year (SC 102), the calendar of saints, baptismal anniversaries, name days, patronal days;
  - Life Cycle (Rites) - in joy and sorrow, excitement and fear;
  - Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers (USCCB).
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- What kinds of rituals? How?
  - tactile - Epiphany Blessing, personal Cross;
  - evocative - Sacred Chrism, typological stories;
  - universal/‘official’ - Hours, ‘not-just-their-stuff’;
  - connected - Holy Water, Advent wreath;
  - participatory - Hours, dialogue, song, intercession;

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- A method for mystagogical catechesis:
  - experience: what did you see, hear, smell, encounter?
  - understanding,
  - deepening and insight from the tradition,
  - renarrating,
  - decision.

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- A method for mystagogical catechesis:
  - experience,
  - understanding: what is God revealing to you in this?
  - deepening and insight from the tradition,
  - renarrating,
  - decision.
A method for mystagogical catechesis:

- experience,
- understanding,
- deepening and insight from the tradition:
- renarrating,
- decision.

renarrating: If this is true, what difference does it make?

decision: so what will be different this week from last?