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## **How the Holy Spirit works in the lives of Young Disciples participants**

The Young Disciples Teams have just completed their 11th summer conducting summer camps all over the state of North Dakota.

Each year I ask the team members to write down some reflections on how they saw the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the students they worked with all week. Their reflections are turned in anonymously and the names of the students have been changed. Here are a few of them.

"After a lesson and a church tour, little Beth was still not comprehending that Jesus in the tabernacle IS Jesus the Eucharist. At the end of Thursday Mass, Father was just closing the tabernacle when Beth sat straight up, then suddenly leaned forward. Eyes wide, she whispered to me, 'Why did he open and close that?' I told her, 'He had to put Jesus back in there.' 'Wait! Jesus in the bread is in the gold box, too?' I said, 'Yes.' She replied, 'And he's real?' I told her yes again, and she spent the remainder of Mass with her mouth open in awe."

"I will never forget when my second and third grade class went up for reconciliation. Mark said he had not received the sacrament before so I told him to pray for a little bit. After a minute he asked if he could say the rosary, and I said yes, but he told me he couldn't remember how it went. I offered to help, so we went to a pew and he told me that he really liked praying the rosary. After starting, Billy also came and wanted to pray the rosary, however all he needed was for me to tell him the mysteries and he said the rest on his own. After a couple of decades, Mark wanted to know how to do reconciliation and how he could go. I told him some things and then told him to go into the confessional and talk to Father about it. He came out very happy and excited. By the end of the week, he wanted to know how he could receive his first Communion."

"I will never forget when a boy in my class told me how much he liked hearing about the saints. I normally do a couple extra stories about saints in the classroom scattered throughout the lessons. One class period I mentioned I would tell a saint story and he said, 'Good, I really like hearing the saint stories. It's my favorite part.' He said this several times and often requested more; and not just during the class period either. He would ask for a story during recess while we were playing games outside or when we were transitioning to another part of camp. I will never forget the look on his face and how much he paid attention and how hard he listened whenever I mentioned something about a saint."

"This week one of the older kids invited a friend to camp. While one of his parents was Catholic, he had not been coming regularly to Mass and had not received any sacraments beyond baptism. At camp he got to learn how to pray the rosary, learn about Mary, saints, sacraments and the many things he didn't know before. His classmates were very patient with him and helped answer his questions and taught him how to pray the rosary. They went so far as to volunteer their families to pick him up on Sundays for Mass! By the end of the week, this boy wanted to receive the sacrament of reconciliation."

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