



The Diocese of Peterborough Rosary Prayer Program in PVNC Schools: Program Overview & Materials

Vision

Achieving Excellence in Catholic Education
LEARN • LEAD • SERVE

Mission

To educate students in faith-filled, safe, inclusive Catholic learning communities by nurturing the mind, body and spirit of all.

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September 7, 2017

Dear Rosary Prayer Program Volunteers,

The Rosary Apostolate Program Inc. has sown seeds of living faith in the experience of our children. The time of parishioners to pray in the schools with our young children and to lead them in the Marian traditions of our faith has nurtured the growth of this program within the Diocese of Peterborough.

This coincides with the development of a new Religion program for Catholic schools approved by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario called Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ. The new Religion program has good resources to Support the students in learning and praying the Marian traditions of our Faith. Accordingly, the Rosary Apostolate Program Inc. is transitioning to the Diocese of Peterborough Rosary Prayer Program. The good practices of the apostolate will be followed including the volunteers who visit the Catholic schools and pray with the children.

You play an important part in the Rosary Prayer Program and I offer you my episcopal encouragement and prayers to continue serving in this ministry. I thank Maria Fitzgerald, Director of the Rosary Prayer Program, and Fr. Paul Massel, Faith Animator and Spiritual Advisor, for their leadership; and thank you for your generous and faithful ministry of prayer with our children.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "D. Miehm".

† Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm, D.D.
Bishop of Peterborough

350 Hunter Street West – P.O. Box 175, Peterborough, ON, Canada, K9J 6Y8

September 18, 2017

Dear Rosary Prayer Program Volunteers,

The Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland, and Clarington Catholic District School Board welcomes you as a volunteer of the Diocese of Peterborough Rosary Prayer Program in our schools. We are grateful for your willingness to volunteer your time to support our teachers as they help our students learn and experience the beautiful prayer of the Rosary. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and is a blessing to the young people in our schools.

Pope Francis reflects on Mary in these words: "Mary has always been present in the hearts, the piety and above all the pilgrimage of faith of the Christian People. Our journey of faith is the same as that of Mary, and so we feel that she is particularly close to us...She had to take the same path as ourselves, a path which is sometimes difficult and unclear. She had to advance in the "pilgrimage of faith" (Lumen gentium, 58)...To her let us entrust our journey of faith, the desires of our hearts, our needs and the needs of the whole world, especially of those who hunger and thirst for justice and peace, and for God." (The Rosary with Pope Francis, 24-25)

As we transition to a diocesan prayer program to support our Catholic schools, we want to ensure that what our students learn and experience about the Rosary is consistent with the teaching of the Church, as expressed in the concepts and language of *Growing in Faith*, *Growing in Christ*, the official Religious Education program for PVNC schools, approved by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. This integrity is central to our mandate as a Catholic School Board and the mission of Catholic Education.

Let us work together in prayer, in collaboration and in charity as we introduce our students in PVNC schools to Mary, the Mother of God, to the Rosary, and to the mysteries celebrated in this great prayer of our faith. Let us pray for each other, that each of us will be true to Catholic Education, each in our own way and proper role.

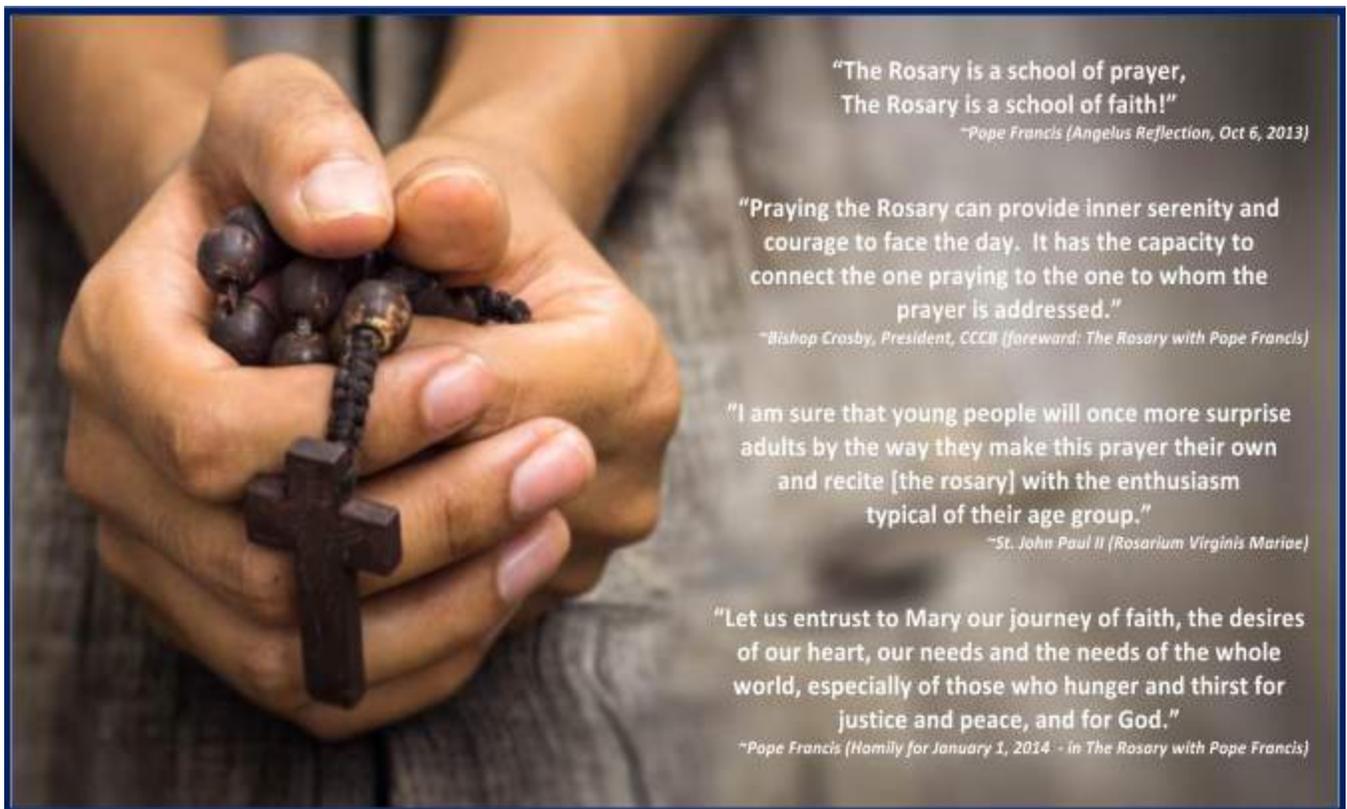


Michael Nasello
Director of Education
PVNCCDSB

Aims of the Program

The Diocese of Peterborough Rosary Prayer Program is a program supported by volunteers which is designed to help students *grow in faith through prayer*. Through participation in this program students will be invited to:

- Learn contemplative prayer
- Strengthen leadership in prayer
- Serve others through prayer



Volunteer Requirements

1. **Photo ID** will be provided and should be worn on all school visits.
2. **A Criminal Record Check** (with Vulnerable Sector Search) is required by all school volunteers. The original must be given to the school principal before your first visit.
3. **Dates and times** of visits confirmed in advance with principal and will be communicated with teachers.



Rosary Prayer Program Continuum

The following continuum is provided to assist volunteers in their planning and to promote student growth and development in prayer.

Level	Outcomes	Curriculum Connections	Time
Kindergarten (JK & SK)	-Students will bless themselves with the sign of the cross and pray the <i>Hail Mary</i> .	Students will “give praise and thanks to God.” <i>(In God’s Image Catechist Manual)</i>	15 min
Grades 1-2	-Students will pray the <i>Our Father</i> , <i>Hail Mary</i> , and <i>Glory Be</i> (G1). -Students will pray a decade of the rosary and begin praying the Apostles’ Creed (G2).	Students will “learn to recite the common prayers of this living community” and “demonstrate an understanding of our profession of faith.” <i>(Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document Document, Grades 1-8, 75-77)</i>	20 min
Grades 3-4	-Students will review all prayers and be introduced to the complete rosary (G3). -Students will pray two decades progressing to five decades by the year’s end (G4).	Students will “identify the unique prayer life of the Virgin Mary” and “appreciate the gift of the common prayers of the Church.” <i>(Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, p103 & 106)</i>	20 min - 25 min
Grades 5-6	-Students will review all prayers and pray a full five decade rosary every visit (G5) -Students will consider the Pope’s explanation of each decade while praying the rosary (G6)	Students will “see that prayer is enriched by a variety of elements” and “use various means to enter into meditative ... and contemplative prayer.” <i>(Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, p136 & 137)</i>	25 min
Grades 7-8	-Students will pray a full rosary with the Pope’s explanation on the mysteries. They will also pray the <i>Hail Holy Queen</i> at the close of the rosary (G7 & G8)	Students will “recognize that the Church has drawn upon many sources to assist Christians in prayer” and “understand that the Church venerates Mary the Mother of God.” <i>(Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, p159 & 169)</i>	30 min

Religious Education Program Connections

Prayer is an important pillar of Catholic Schools and of particular importance in the elementary school classroom. In outlining the most important teaching strategies for Religious Education, the *Religious Education Policy Document, Grades 1-8* identifies that:

“The Catholic Church has a rich history of prayer. Students should be introduced to and invited to participate in the many forms of prayer that have developed over the history of the Church including those that have developed out of our encounter with other religious traditions such as guided meditation and contemplative prayer. It should be noted that prayer needs to be invitational so as to respect religious freedom and the dignity of students who come from non-Catholic traditions; however, it is still a vital part of Christian formation and the school’s participation in the Church’s mission to evangelize the children we teach.” (ICE, 21)

In alignment with this appeal to invite students to participate in contemplative prayer, the Grade 1-4 religion program, *‘Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ’*, which has been fully implemented in PVNC schools, makes many connections with the rosary. It is instructive for volunteers of the Rosary Prayer Program to note some examples of these connections:

- In Grade 3, students are introduced to the prayers and mysteries for praying a complete rosary.

The Mysteries	Description
Joyful	Events related to Mary and the childhood of Jesus
Sorrowful	Events related to the passion and death of Jesus Christ
Glorious	Events related to the Resurrection and the reign of Christ in Heaven with Our Lady
Luminous	Events related to the life and ministry of Jesus

Figure 1: Table on page 21 of *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* (3)
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Figure 2: Rosary Poster accompanies Grade 3.
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- In Grade 1, students learn the common prayers of the Church: The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.
- In Grade 3, students are led in reflection on the purpose of the rosary and the benefits of contemplative prayer.
- In Grade 4, students connect the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Luminous mysteries to scriptural references and are led in meditating on the life of Jesus.

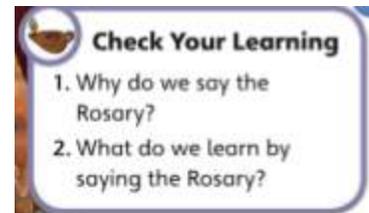


Figure 3: Check-in questions in Grade 3 student book.
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Joyful Mystery	Tells the scripture story of when...	We think deeply about...
Annunciation	the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she has been chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son.	Mary's humility and obedience to God.
Visitation	Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is overjoyed to see her and knows that Mary is blessed.	how we can love one another better.
Nativity	Jesus is born in a stable and laid in a manger.	God's great love for us; He sent us His only Son.
Presentation	Mary and Joseph present Jesus for a blessing, and Simeon and Anna recognize Him as the Messiah.	the sacrifices that will be made by Jesus and Mary.
Finding Jesus in the Temple	Jesus is a boy and goes missing for three days. Mary and Joseph find Him teaching the teachers about the faith.	Jesus' faith, wisdom, and obedience to His Father's will; Mary and Joseph's great joy when they found Jesus.

Figure 4: Scriptural connection table for joyful mysteries from page 88 in Grade 4 student book.
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- Throughout the program, students learn stories of saints who are connected to the rosary and who are examples of contemplative prayer and meditation, such as St. Bernadette, St. Dominic Guzman and St. John Paul.

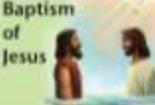
Luminous Mystery	From the Gospel	We think deeply about how...
 <p>Baptism of Jesus</p>	<p>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)</p>	<p>Jesus is baptized and begins His ministry spreading the news of God's kingdom.</p>
 <p>Wedding at Cana</p>	<p>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5)</p>	<p>when Jesus turns water into wine, He shows that His presence in our lives changes us and that families will be brought together as the kingdom of God approaches.</p>
 <p>Proclamation of the Kingdom</p>	<p>...Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (Mark 1:14-15)</p>	<p>Jesus announces the coming of God's kingdom and the call to conversion.</p>
 <p>Transfiguration</p>	<p>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Luke 9:35)</p>	<p>Jesus is revealed in His glory to Peter, James, and John. In the Transfiguration, Jesus' appearance changes and He is shown as divine, radiating His glory.</p>
 <p>Institution of the Eucharist</p>	<p>..."This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)</p>	<p>at the Last Supper, Jesus invites His disciples and us to receive Him through the Eucharist.</p>

Figure 5: Scriptural connection table for luminous mysteries from page 141 in Grade 4 student book.

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Figure 6: Stories and images of saints are often connected to prayer and the rosary.

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Through the Rosary Prayer Program, we endeavour to reinforce and support what the students have learned and are learning in their Religious Education classes through prayer and contemplation.

For further information on rosary content and prayer content in the *Growing In Faith, Growing in Christ* series, boards who have digital access are welcome to access the parish website (www.pearsoncanada.ca/school/growinginfaith/parish/) using the Username and Password your board has been provided.

Icons to Lead Student Reflection

The Joyful Mysteries



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The Joyful Mysteries



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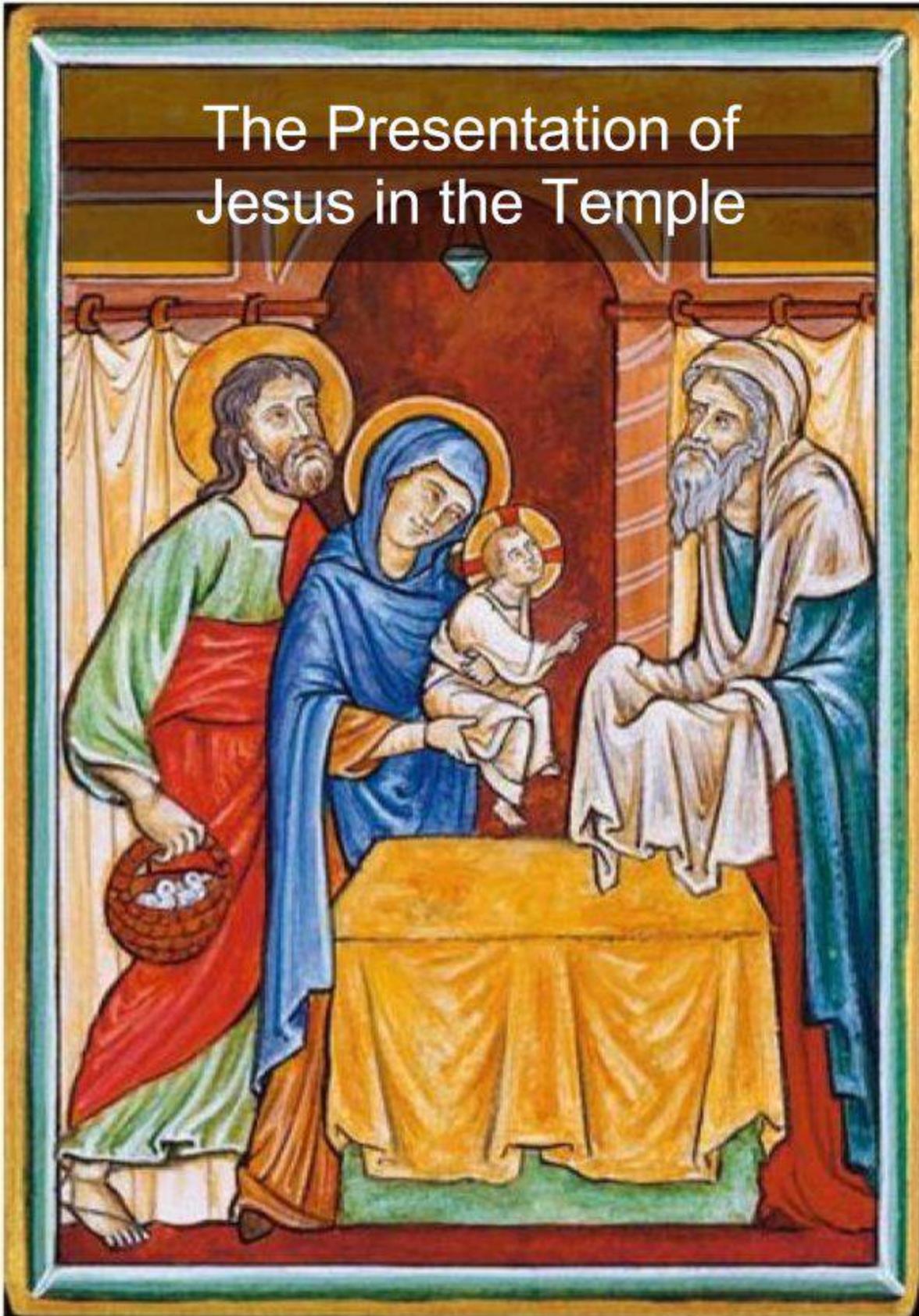
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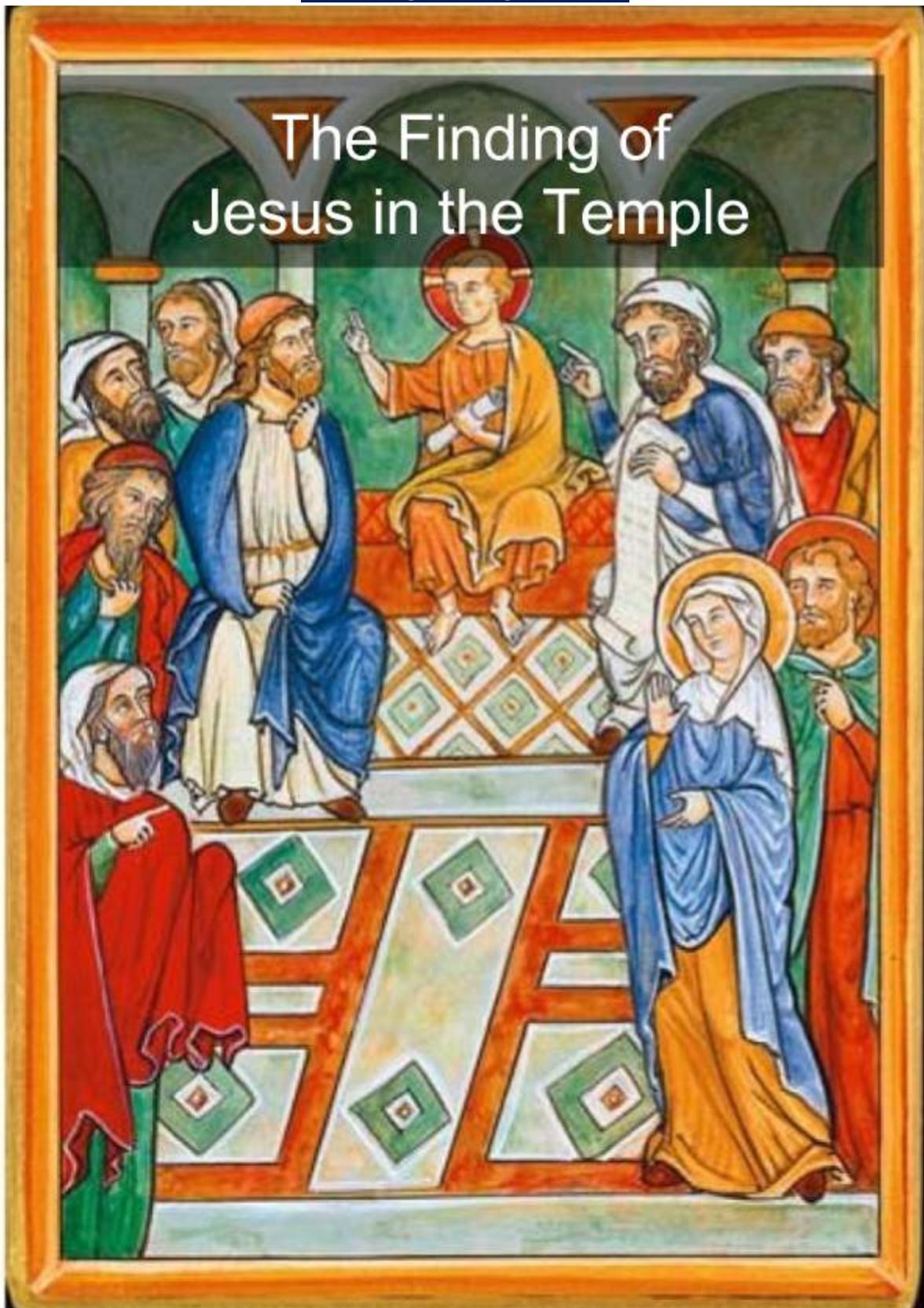
The Joyful Mysteries

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple



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The Joyful Mysteries



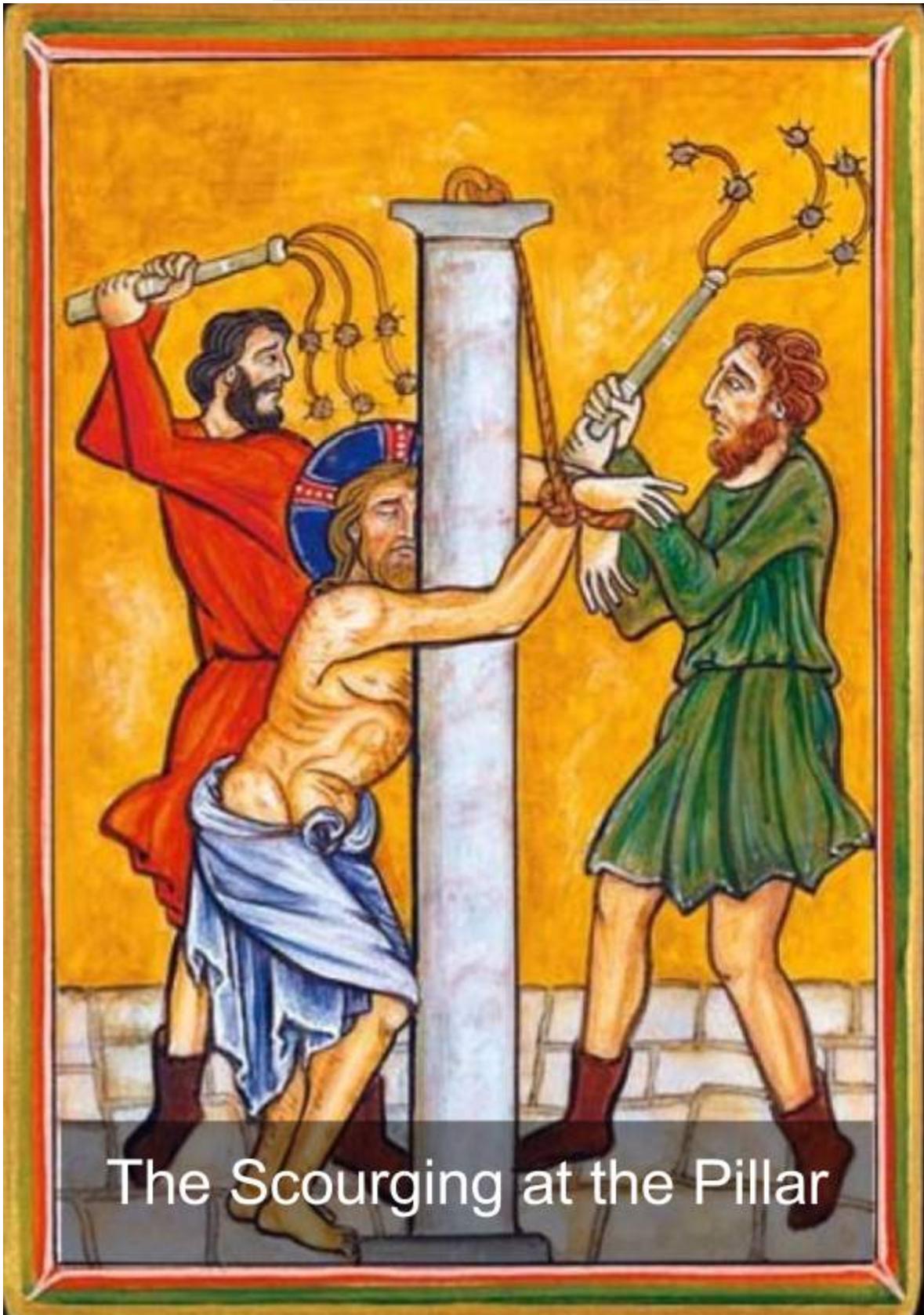
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The Sorrowful Mysteries



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The Sorrowful Mysteries



The Scourging at the Pillar

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The Carrying of the Cross

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The Crucifixion

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The Glorious Mysteries



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The Ascension

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The Assumption of Mary

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The Wedding at Cana



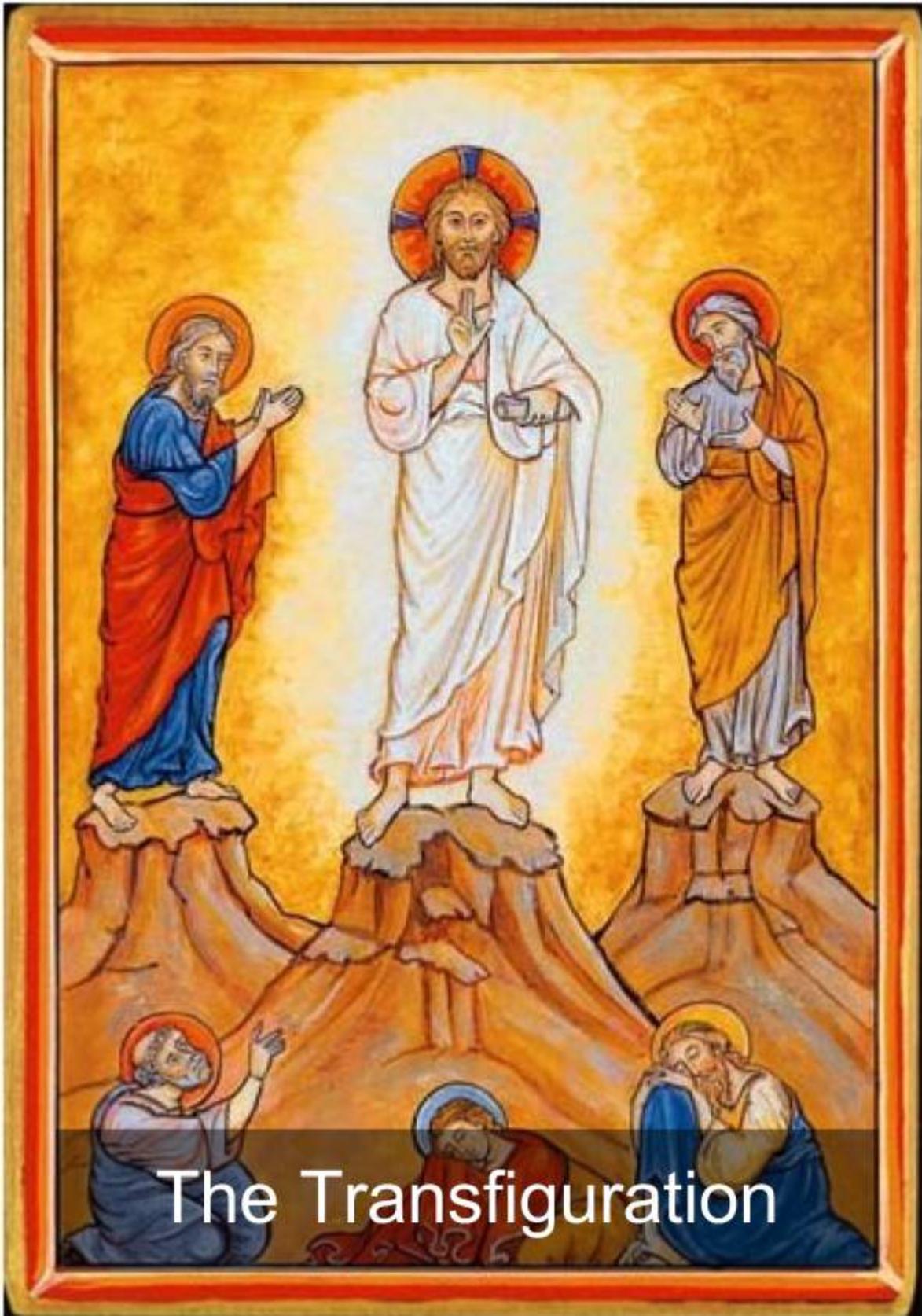
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The Luminous Mysteries



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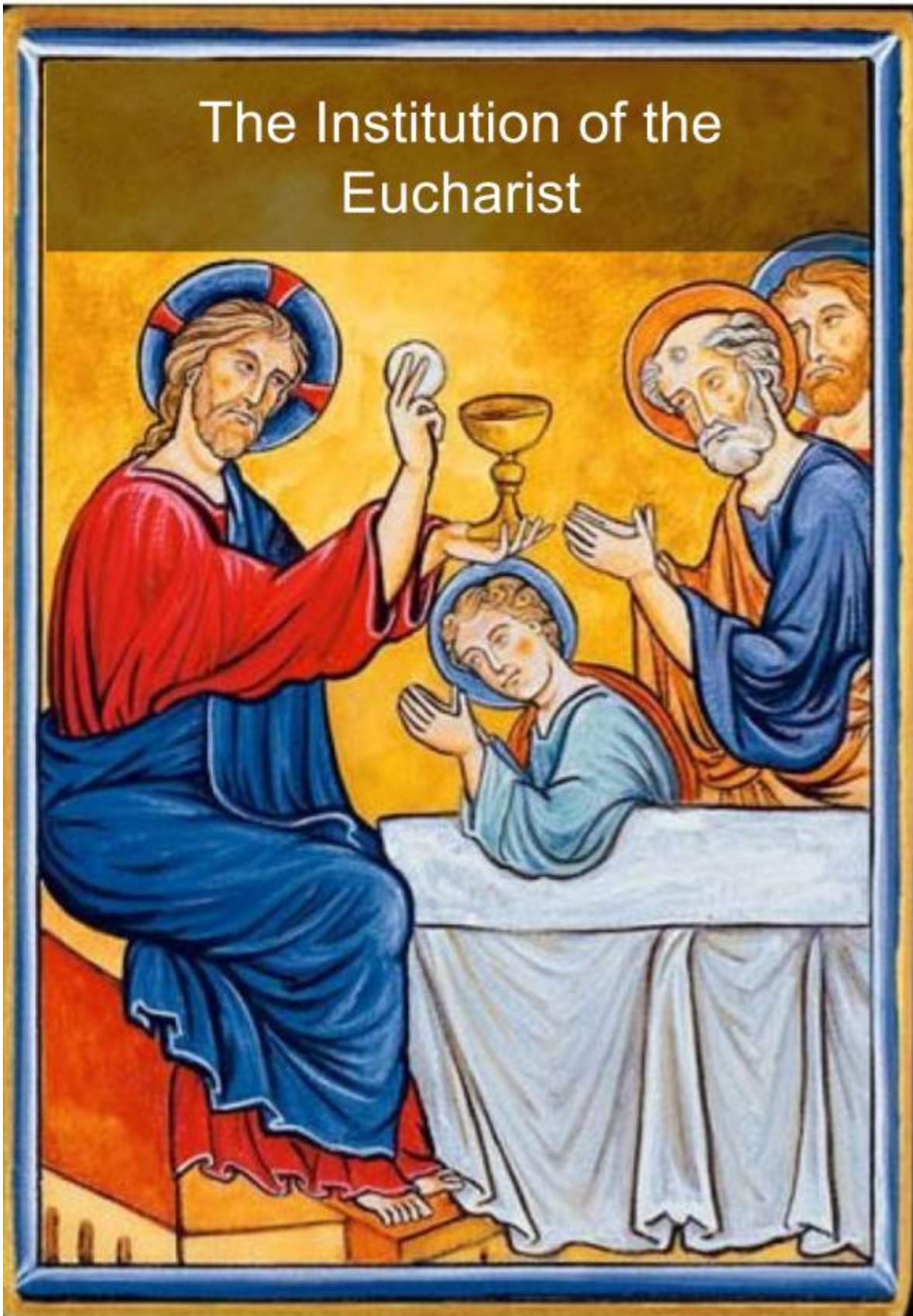
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The Luminous Mysteries

The Institution of the Eucharist



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