

Date: _____

With PARENTS

Teaching Children Appreciation

Most parents are very conscientious about teaching their children to be polite, to say "please" and "thank you." Parents remind their children to say "thanks" to Grandma for the birthday gift, to the neighbor for the little treat, or to a family member who made an effort to pass the potatoes at the dinner table.

Much of this teaching is done by rote. Someone does something and a "thank you" is delivered. Someone gives something and a "thanks" is rendered. Children's behavior is thus modified to notice and acknowledge when something is done or something nice happens.

This is all part of the socialization process. Children become functioning members of our society by learning good manners. This is a necessary process.

Teaching appreciation, however, goes beyond the sometimes automatic, always polite rendition of "thank you." Helping children to

appreciate is to help them understand, value, prize and cherish.

Appreciation is not taught by rote. It is learned through the experience of being appreciated and valued as a person. Appreciation is understood by children as they grow and develop in a home where there is a genuine appreciation for one another and the gifts of life and love.

A young child who is just learning to speak can be taught to say "thank you" rather easily. But it takes much effort on the part of parents to help these young ones to appreciate life and the many gifts of God.



Around the House

- Mother:** Did you thank everybody before you left the party?
Mary: No.
Mother: Did you forget?
Mary: No.
Mother: What happened?
Mary: When Jearnie said "thank you" first, Debbie's mother said "Don't mention it."
Mother: So?
Mary: So, I didn't mention it.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

*On Thanksgiving Day, dear Lord,
 Our thanks are most sincere
 For all the blessings you bestowed
 Throughout the passing year.*

*For health, for work, for special joys
 For family and for friends
 And for our nation under God,
 Your goodness never ends!*

*But help us understand, dear Lord,
 And may we clearly see
 That just one day is not enough
 To thank you properly.*

*And that our thanks today are small
 For gifts that you outpour,
 Unless we've thanked you other days...
 Three hundred sixty-four!*