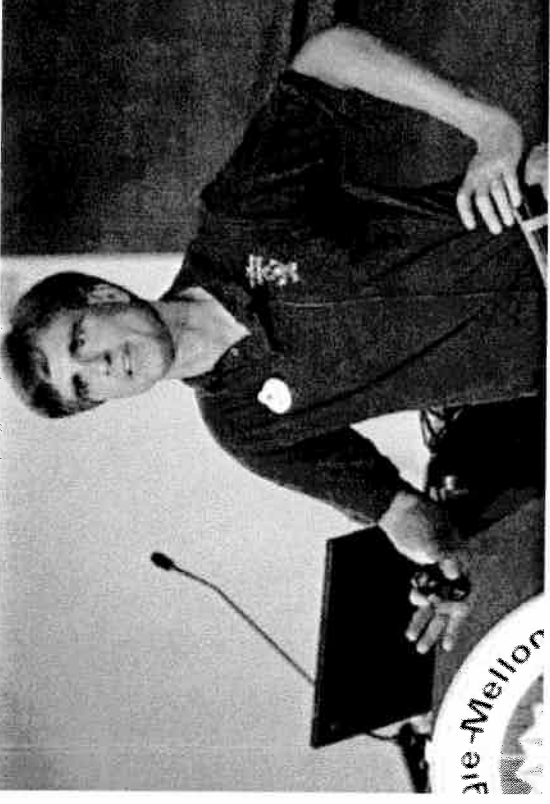




THE HILLAST TECHNOLOGRE



I don't know if any of you heard about this guy. His name was Randy Pausch and he was a college professor at Carnegie Mellon University. When he learned that he was dying of pancreatic cancer, he delivered a last lecture to his class about "achieving your dreams." It was videotaped and viewed on YouTube by nearly 10 million people. Now the good news is, that I'm not dying...BUT, we're coming close to the time after which we may never see each other again, I've got a last lecture to present to you and I expect you to pay very close attention...this is the last time I will get to speak to you as your catechist.

Does anyone know who this little guy is?

This is John F. Kennedy Jr., known back then as John-John, saluting the casket of his father, the late President John F. Kennedy who was assassinated in 1963.



John F. Kennedy Jr. later grew up to be a journalist, publisher of a magazine, a lawyer, and a pilot. Everyone wondered when he might enter politics to follow in his father's and uncles' footsteps.

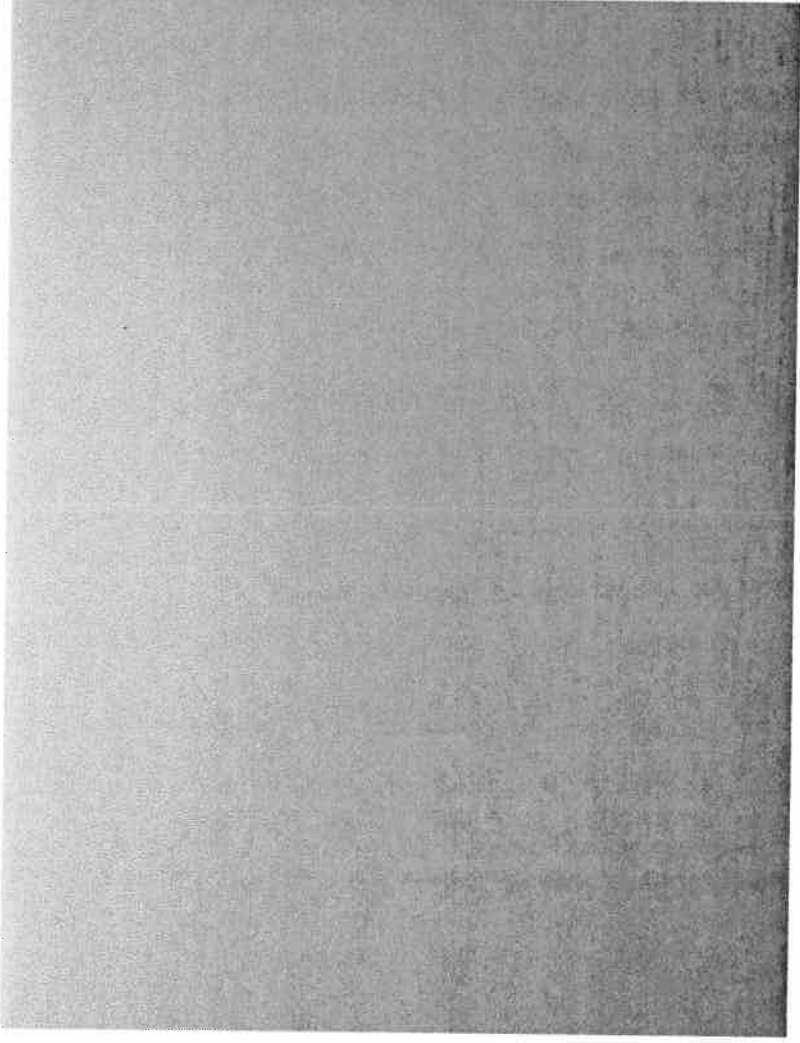


One of the things that John Jr. loved to do was to fly. This is the type of plane that he would often fly for recreation.

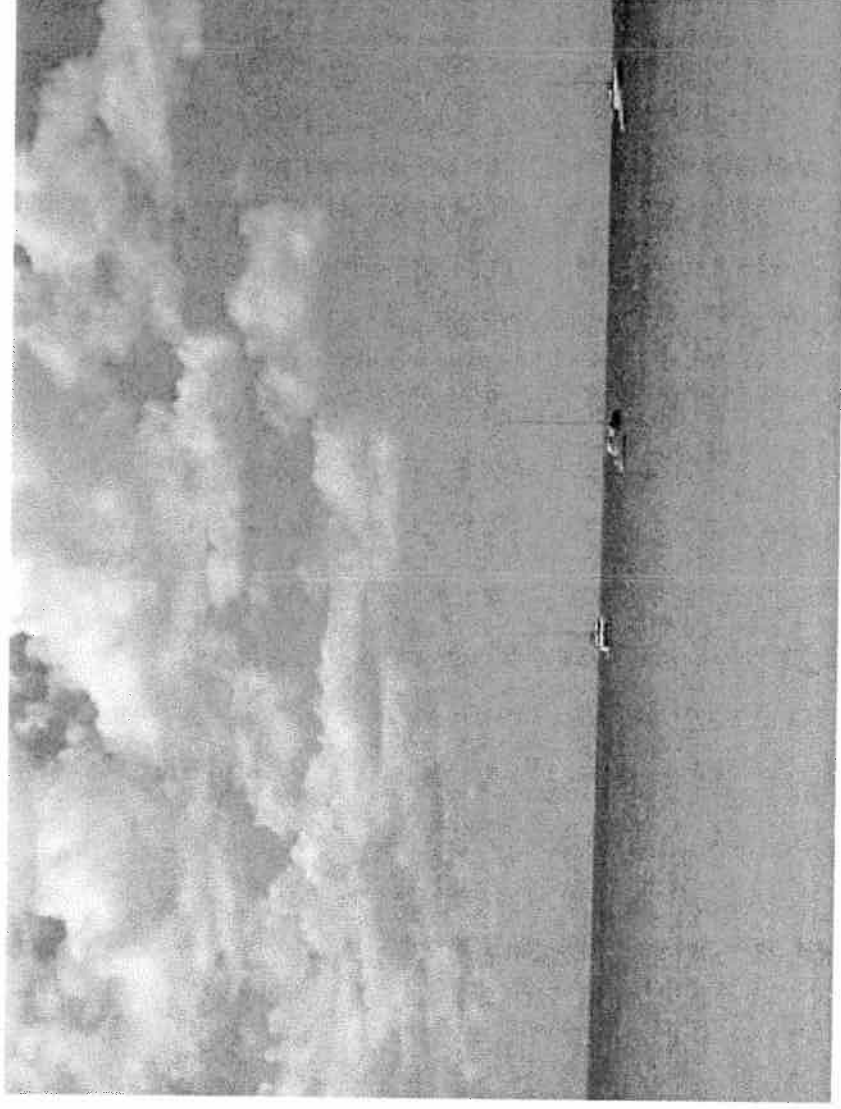




Unfortunately, his life, along with the lives of his wife and sister-in-law, came to an end in a tragic plane crash in 1999 as he was flying his plane to Martha's Vineyard, off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

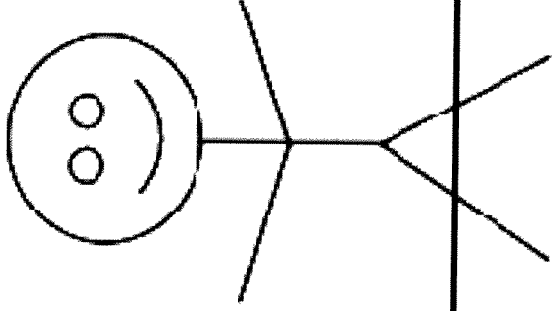
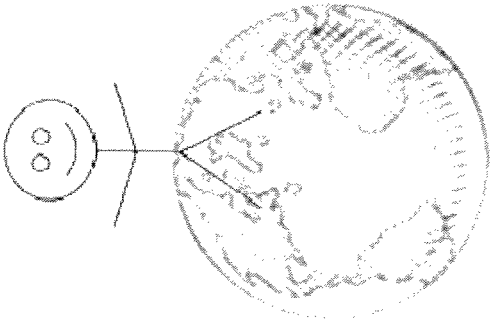


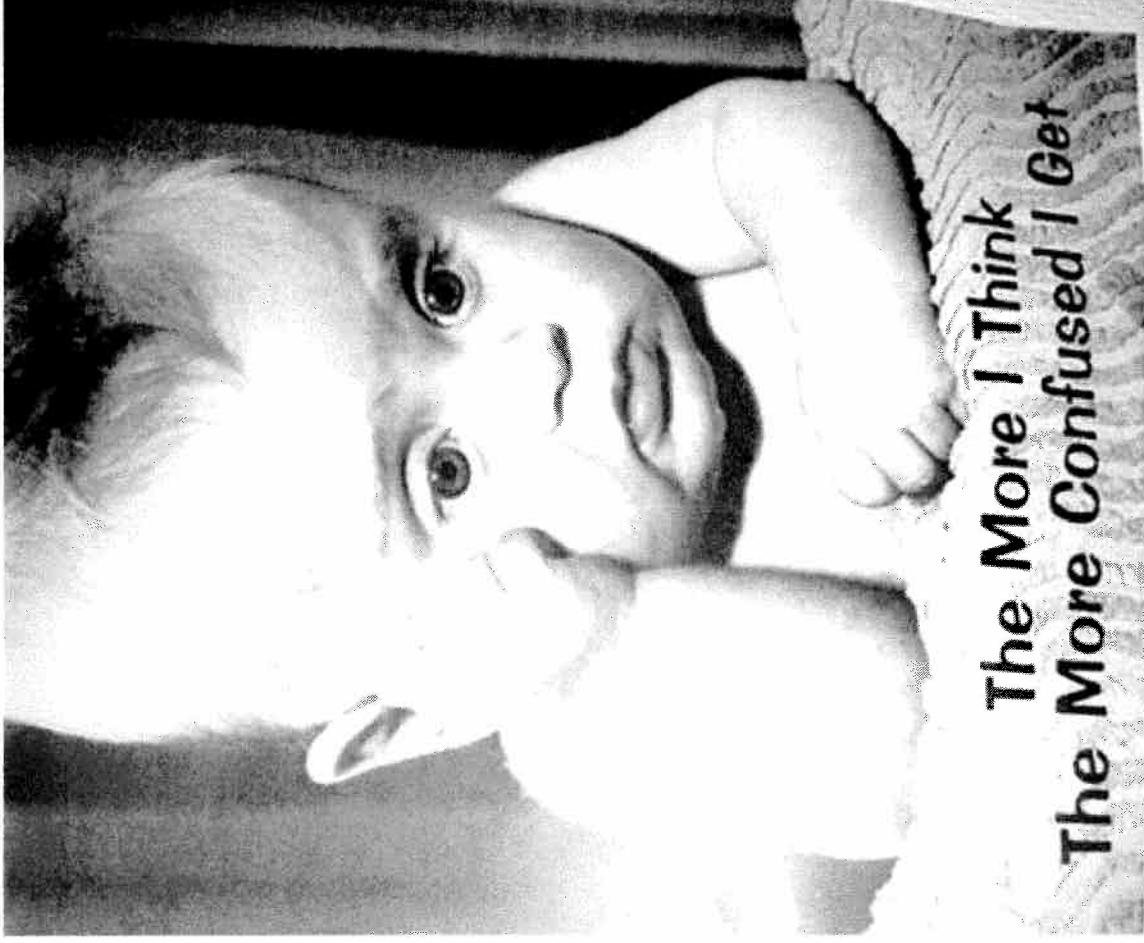
Investigators believe that the reason for the plane crash was that JFK Jr. was flying at dusk, over water, on a very hazy day making it very difficult to see the horizon. Without a clear horizon, pilots of small planes, who have no radar, can become disoriented, unable to distinguish the water from the sky. It is believed that this caused JFK JR. to accidentally crash into the water.



So what does this have to do with us? Each of us needs to have a clear view of a horizon in our lives. What exactly is a horizon? It is that place where it appears that 2 separate realities, the sky and the earth, intersect. A horizon keeps us from becoming disoriented and provides perspective.

Here's an example. Which of these stick people is bigger? It would appear to be the one on the right. Now, let's add a horizon. Suddenly, everything comes into perspective. The one on the left is actually a larger character. A horizon puts everything into context...into perspective.

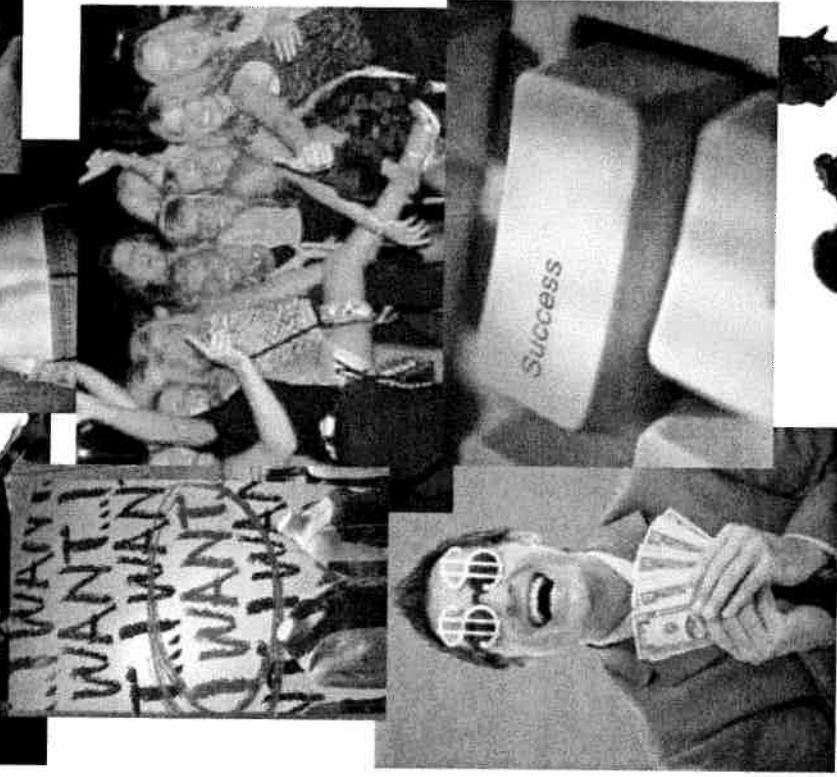


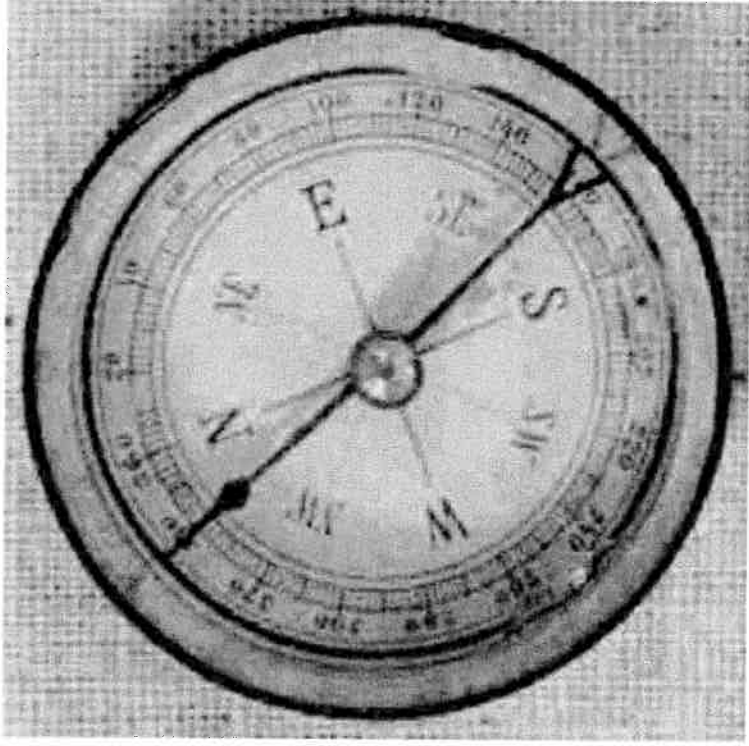


Without a clear horizon,
we can become confused
and lose perspective.
Unfortunately, there are
many things in life that
can confuse us and
cause us to lose
perspective.



In our world, it is very easy to get confused, disoriented, and to lose perspective. So many things look attractive. So many things fight for our attention. So many things look good. We sometimes make some of these things our horizon...the context of our whole lives: money, possessions, power, control, violence, sex, drugs, drinking.

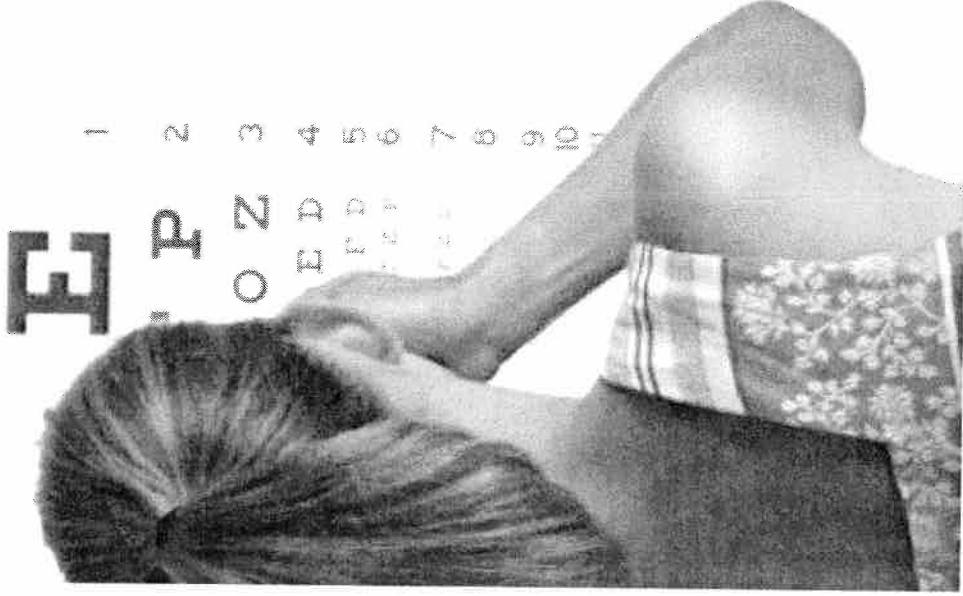




In the midst of all these things seeking our attention, we need something to keep our sense of direction. Something – someone – to keep us focused and to keep our perspective. We need a clear horizon so that we don't get disoriented and crash.



For us, that horizon is Jesus: his life, his teaching, his suffering, his death, and his resurrection. In Baptism (and in Confirmation) we have placed our lives in this context – the place where heaven (God) and earth (our lives) intersect is in Jesus. This means that everything we do, we see in relation to Jesus. If Jesus is our horizon, we will not get disoriented. We will not get lost. We will not lose perspective.



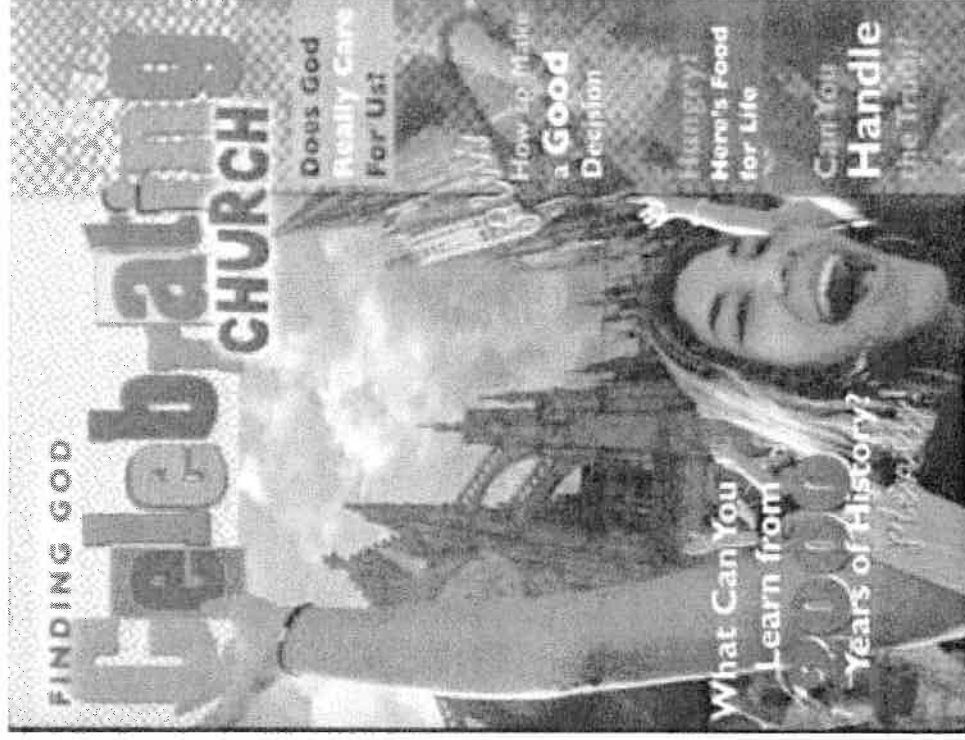
So how do we make Jesus our horizon? It all has to do with the way we see. Jesus came to change the way we see. Not our physical eyesight, but the way we see ourselves, the way we see others, the way we see the world, and the way we see God. He came to give us new eyes.

This is why Jesus healed blind people. He wanted to show that all of us need to see clearly. Unless we see clearly, we run the risk of getting lost, getting disoriented, and of crashing.



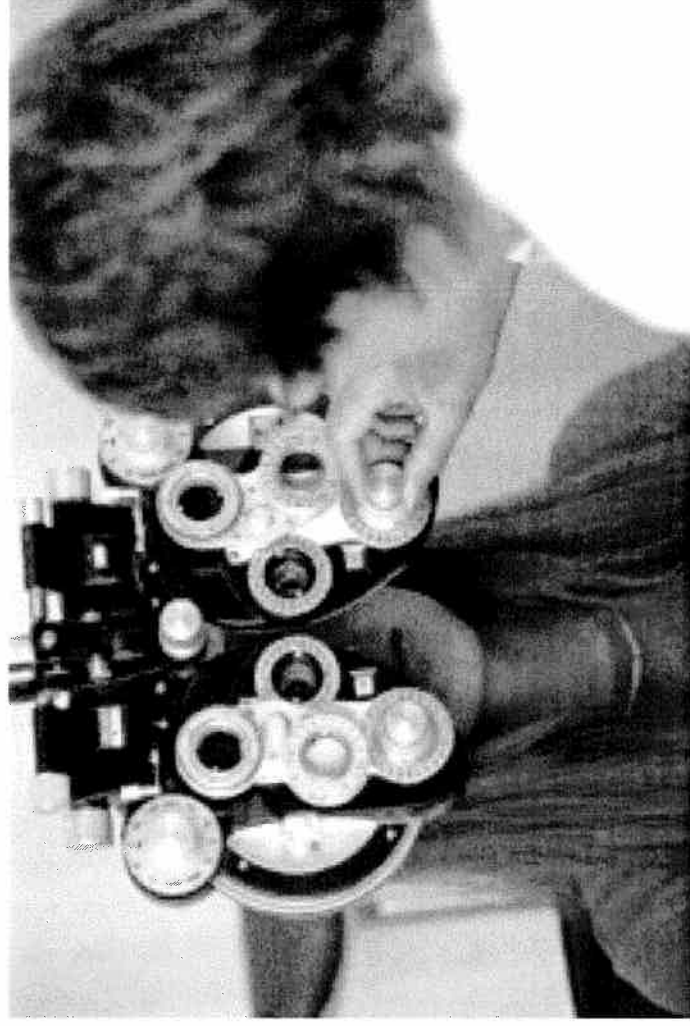
So what are we supposed to see? Jesus wants us to see **him** everywhere. He is telling us that we should **find** him in all people and in all things. That's why Jesus said, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we **see** you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we **see** you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we **see** you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Mt. 25:34-40)

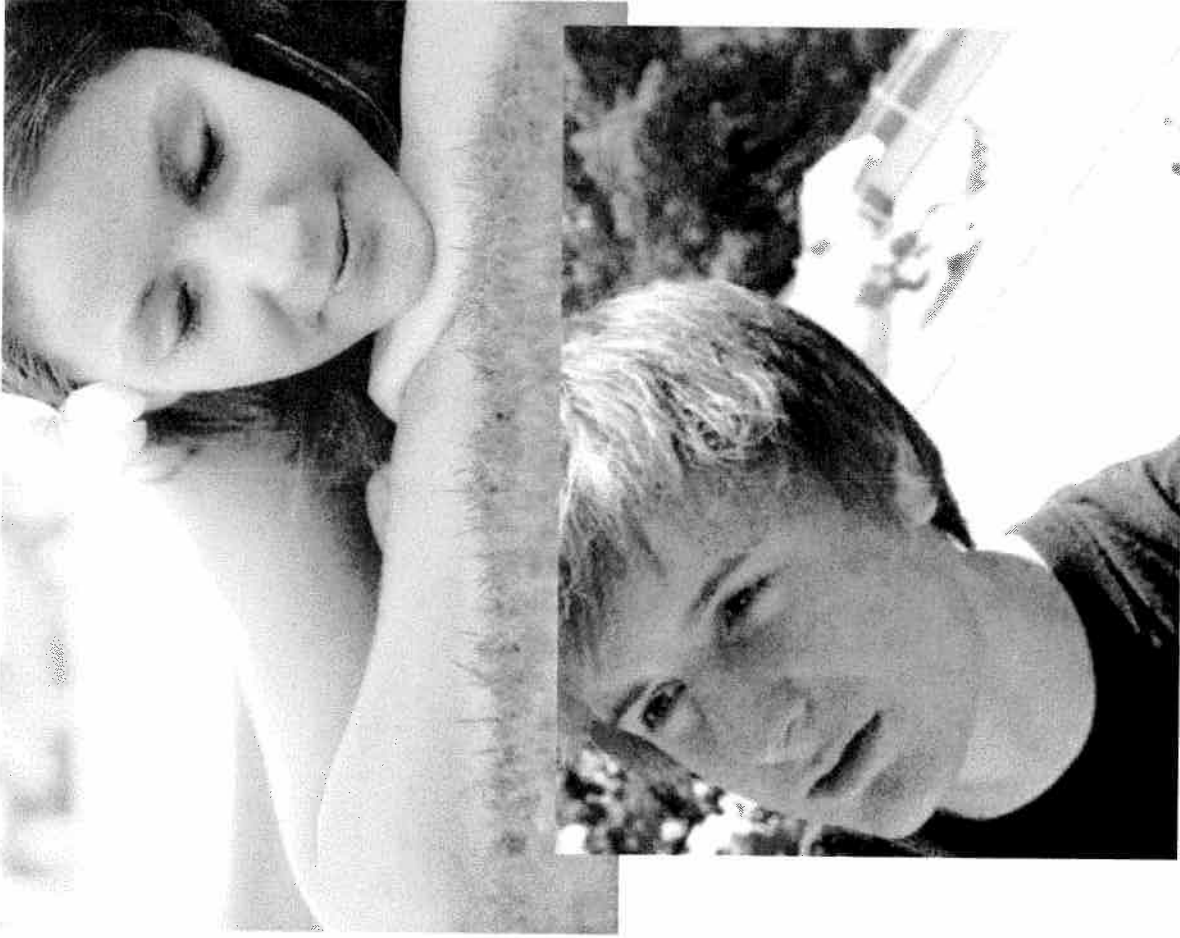




That's why the name of your textbook that we've used this year is FINDING GOD. That's short for what St. Ignatius taught us to do: Find God in All Things. To find God in all things is to live with Jesus as your horizon...never losing focus or our sense of direction.

What we need is a prescription for the way
we see. Not with our eyes, but with our
hearts. We've learned this year what the
keys are to seeing in this new way





The most important way that we can learn to see Jesus as our horizon and find God in all things is through prayer. This year we learned how to find “sacred space” right here in a science room, as we prayed each week with Jesus. Now we have to find sacred space at home, at school, anywhere...a place where we can pray, talking to God just the way we talk to a good friend.

Another powerful way that we learn to see with our heart is through the Seven Sacraments. Who can name them?

Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist

Sacraments of healing

- Penance/Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments at the service of communion

- Holy Orders
- Matrimony



Some of the other ways that we learn to see with our hearts is by reading the Bible, learning about the lives of the saints, and by serving others.



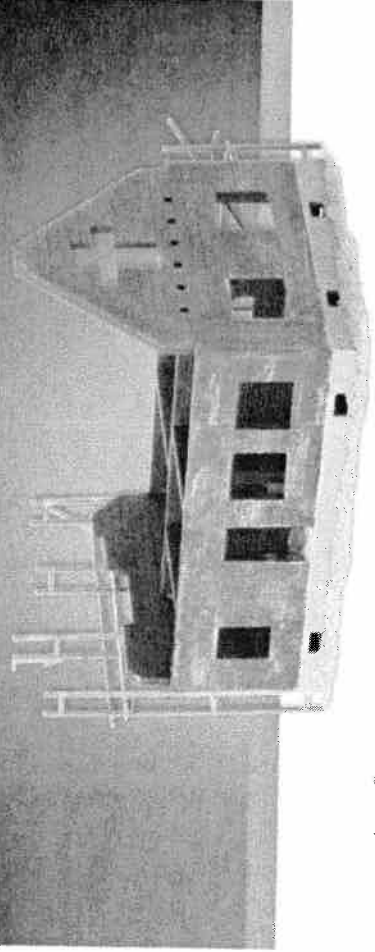
And finally, one of the ways that we learn to see with our hearts is by following the Ten Commandments, loving God and our neighbors. Who can name the 10 Commandments?



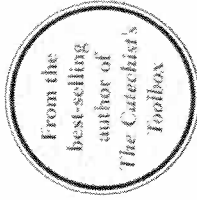
1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day
4. Honor your father and your mother
5. You shall not kill
6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

JOE PAPROCKI

A WELL-BUILT FAITH



A CATHOLIC'S GUIDE TO
KNOWING AND SHARING
WHAT WE BELIEVE



So now that we have reached the end of this particular learning experience, I'd like to offer you a gift that will allow me to continue talking to you even after tonight. This is a book that I've written that should help you to keep Jesus as your horizon. I'm presenting each of you with a signed copy as my farewell gift to you and as my way of reminding you that you NEVER STOP LEARNING ABOUT GOD!

May the road rise up
to meet you.

May the wind be
always at your back.

May the sun shine
warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon
your fields and until

we meet again,
may God hold you in
the palm of His hand.

