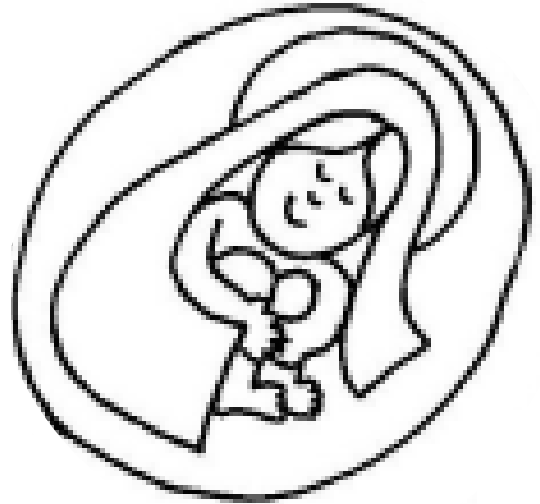


Immaculate Conception Demonstration

Items Needed:

- A plate
- Liquid dish soap
- Water
- Black Pepper
- A small bowl
- The image of Mary provided here, cut out around the oval and covered over with tape to make it somewhat waterproof (or, just use your finger if preparing the image isn't feasible)



Directions:

Step 1:

Fill the bowl with water leaving a little space so that it doesn't overflow.

Step 2:

Sprinkle a fair amount of black pepper over the water.

Step 3:

Dip your finger in the center of the bowl (all are welcome to try this step). Announce: "You may have just got some pepper flakes stuck to your finger. Imagine that these pepper flakes are original sin, which we inherit when we are first created."

Step 4:

Now, take the Mary image and rub dish soap all over it (*if you are not able to prepare the image as described above, simply refer to the image and explain that you will use your finger in it's place remind us of Mary - be sure to rub the soap on a clean finger with no pepper on it!*).

Announce: "God wanted to protect Mary for the stain of original sin, because he was preparing her to be the Mother of Jesus."

Step 5:

Now, dip the soap-covered Mary (*or clean, soapy finger*) in the bowl with the water and pepper flakes. You'll notice that the pepper flakes (sin) move away to the edge of the plate. Announce: "This reminds us of God's gift of the Immaculate Conception."