Learn by Doing

Choice Reflecting God

The Lord, like us, has loves and goals. He plans ways to achieve His goals so that what He wants can happen. One of the Lord's goals is to have relationships with people so He can bless them. In order to achieve this goal the Lord created the whole world and made each person in His image and likeness.

This activity invites students to dream up and plan an activity they love. Students can discover that our efforts of goal-setting, planning and action are similar to ways in which the Lord acts.

1. What do you like to do with a free afternoon? Brainstorm ideas and then give each student a copy of *An Afternoon of Fun* (p. 2) and a pen or pencil.
2. Write your chosen activity at the top of the page. Take three minutes to think about it and write down how you would go about making it happen. Keep in mind that you will be sharing your ideas with the group.
3. Invite each student to share his or her activity and plans for making it happen. Ask the following: 1. Why did you choose this activity? 2. How did you plan it? 3. What do you hope to enjoy?
4. What you have just done—loving something, setting a goal or planning a way to make it happen, and achieving your goal—is what makes you human! This is what the Lord does that people can also do.
5. What are the Lord's goals? What are His plans? How does He make them happen? Allow plenty of time for brainstorming.
6. The Lord shares His goals and plans in *True Christian Religion.* Pass out copies of *What the Lord Wants and How He Makes It Happen* (p. 3). Read aloud.
7. What are the Lord's goals? How does He make them happen?

Materials Needed

copy of *An Afternoon of Fun* (p. 2) and *What God Wants...* (p. 3) for each student, scissors or paper cutter, pens or pencils

Prepare in Advance

Cut activity pages in half.

New Church Concept Image and Likeness

By creation we are made in God's image and likeness. It is the constant effort of the Lord's Divine providence to unite us with Himself and Himself with us and thereby to make us in His image. The Lord is doing this so that He may give us the bliss of eternal life, since this is the nature of the Divine love. He cannot make this gift unless we banish sins from our outer self in apparent autonomy. We cannot be united to the Lord and thus reformed, regenerated, and saved unless we act freely and rationally. This is what makes us human (see *Divine Providence* 123).

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An Afternoon of Fun

What is something you love to do?

What would a fun afternoon of doing this look like?

An Afternoon of Fun

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What God Wants and How He Makes It Happen

God is love and wisdom. His love and wisdom are made up of three things: loving others outside of Himself, wanting to be one with them, and making them happy from Himself. Love wants those things; wisdom makes them happen.

God's **goal** is to love others outside of Himself. He loves the entire human race, as well as everything in the world He created because it supports human life. God is limitless or infinite, however everything in the universe is outside of God and so is limited or finite. He loves good and evil people who are in heaven or in hell equally. People who choose to love goodness receive the Lord's love. People who choose to love evil turn away from the Lord and so receive His love in a lesser and more limited way.

God's **plan** is to be one with other people. He creates partnerships with angels in heaven, with people who receive Him, and with everything good and true in us. God created people in His image and likeness so that He could become one with us.

God **makes people happy** when they receive His love. He devotes Himself to making us happy—with a wonderful happiness that lasts forever, in heaven.

Based on *True Christian Religion* 43

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