

Research Seminar Days  
*With Professor Carla Rinaldi*

Prayer Day 2

Yesterday Carla shared again that children are ‘the best expressions of the potentiality of human beings’ (Carla Rinaldi, 31/7/14). Her words resonate with our recognition – ‘yes, of course’ because a child is **all that God is** – the best expression of human beings loved into being in God’s image. Full of wonder, curiosity, and imagination and also vested with a desire for knowledge, **empathy** for the other, power and competence.

This idea takes us to the Temple in Jerusalem where we find 12 year old Jesus, in a uniquely Lukan text, and the only Gospel story we have of Jesus between infancy and adulthood. Of Jesus as **a child**. Jesus has stayed behind, after the Festival of the Passover, to be amongst the rabbis- the teachers. When the frantic Mary and Joseph find him, he is sitting with them listening and being listened to. He is participating in the citizenship of his community, and the adults with him welcome him and are amazed by him.

The final verse of the story tells us that in the years after this ‘Jesus grew in wisdom’. Reminding us that **potentiality** is a part of God’s nature – a divine quality.

Child Jesus - Son of God; God - **all that God is**. Each child we teach the perfect image of the child in the temple.

**A Reading from the Gospel of Luke: 2: 41-52**

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and

asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

<sup>49</sup> “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”<sup>[4]</sup> <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Reader: The Word of the LORD

Response: Praise to you LORD JESUS CHRIST

Prayer written and prepared by Elizabeth Dickinson, for Catholic Education SA on the occasion of the the visit of *Professor Carla Rinaldi* July-August 2014