

Let Our Star Shine

Sunday Service Children's Story

Materials:

- Online video clip, "Your Causal Body"
- **OPTIONAL:** 3 balls or beanbags to demonstrate difficulty of juggling

Preparations:

- Because online videos often take a few minutes to download, play the related video **before** the story begins to ensure that it will be ready when needed.
- Prepare any necessary materials.
- Invite children up to steps of altar.
- Reader of story sits in a chair with children sitting on floor in front of her.
- Include children's story, even if there are no children in your congregation, to welcome families who may come to the service.
- You can add your own creativity to the stories. You may feel comfortable using puppets, props or presenting them just as they are written.
- Feel free to adjust the content to fit your time frame. However, for the spiritual development of the child, we encourage keeping as much of the Ascended Master's Teachings as possible.

Good morning and welcome. Our story today is about our star, the star of our I AM Presence and Causal Body. Do you know where your Causal Body is? **(Allow children to answer.)** If you look up at the chart of the I AM Presence, **(point to chart on altar)** you can see the colorful spheres. Your I AM Presence is your own individuality in God,

your Real Self. Your Causal Body is a part of your Real Self. It's where all your good works and deeds are stored.

The apostle Paul said, "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory." We were told by Archangel Gabriel that Paul's statement means, "Now, the star that differs from every other star is your Causal Body." (March 28, 1997)

The ascended being Surya said this about the importance of becoming more of our real self because it can help others, "Of all of the avatars you have heard of, have you not noticed that it has only taken one—one to convert millions? Such is the magnitude of your star, your I AM Presence, your Causal Body...."

Let's watch a short video clip of our beloved Guru Ma teaching us about our Causal Body. ***(Play online video clip.)***

Our story today is about a juggler who used his talent as his gift to Mother Mary. What do you think is the most important thing we can do with our talents and gifts? ***(Allow children to answer.)*** Yes, we offer them up to God for the glory of God.

Our story is called, *Let Our Star Shine*. It's based on a very old French legend.

Let Our Star Shine

Jean Paul, a juggler, was practicing his craft outside the monastery during the Christmas holidays. The local citizens bestowed charity upon him by tossing a coin or two into his tin can. *(Ask children, "Do you know how difficult it is to juggle?" Briefly,*

demonstrate with three objects.)

Jean Paul liked to sing while performing, however his songs were not always appropriate for his chosen location, especially this time of year. Suddenly, there appeared by his side the head Prior of the monastery.

“Jean Paul, your songs hinder our devotions to the Christ. You must stop this circus act and singing at once,” the Prior said severely.

Jean Paul, filled with remorse, said, “Forgive me, Brother, I will pack up and move immediately.”

Seeing that Jean Paul was sorry for this act, the Prior invited him to join the order of monks. Jean Paul gratefully accepted his invitation, for he had not lived in a warm place for some quite some time.

Immediately, the Prior assigned Jean Paul to work in the kitchen. Bernard, the head chef, said to Jean Paul, “Tonight is the ‘Procession of the Gifts. We are going to have a celebration to honor the new statue of our Blessed Mother. Work with these other monks and follow their instructions precisely. We need many loaves of bread to feed our guests.”

Jean Paul, who knew very little about working in a kitchen hesitantly put on his apron and began his task. He carefully watched the other monks and did as they did. By the time they completed preparing the dough, kneading it and shaping it into all the necessary loaves, Jean Paul took a deep breath. “I did it,” he said. “I learned how to bake bread.”

It wasn't until it was time to remove the loaves from the oven that Jean Paul realized he had spoken too soon. The other monks removed their loaves first. "Ah, they smell so tasty," said Jean Paul. He was impressed with how the loaves had risen in the pans and turned to a beautiful golden-brown color.

He could not wait until he could remove his bread. However, his enthusiasm soon disappeared. For, when Jean Paul brought his loaves out, they looked like burnt pancakes. And they certainly did not have that sweet freshly-baked scent of bread.

Bernard took one look at them and pointed to the kitchen door. "Go, you are not fit for the kitchen." Bernard instructed one of the other monks to escort Jean Paul to Brother Giovanni, the head of housekeeping. For surely, Jean Paul could do no harm there.

Upon hearing Jean Paul's story, Giovanni assigned him the task of scrubbing the stairs leading up to the sleeping rooms. "Go to the west side of the great hallway and there you will find a housekeeping closet with all the supplies you need. We want to have our stairs and floors pristine for our great event tonight."

"Yes sir," Jean Paul said, eager to please the Brother. He walked down the great hallway. He passed several closed doors along the way. Finally, he came to a door labeled, Housekeeping. But then he noticed that the door across the hall also was labeled Housekeeping. "Hmmm." He chose the door on what he thought was the west side, went into the closet and gathered the cleaning supplies.

Jean Paul began his task at the top of the stairs. “Why, this is actually fun,” he thought as he scrubbed the soapy water as hard as he could into steps. He wanted to show Brother Giovanni that he could be a helpful member of the monastery.

Jean Paul had reached the bottom of the staircase, humming the melodies he heard from the choir singing in the chapel, when suddenly, his peaceful moment was disrupted. “Stop, what have you done?” shouted Giovanni.

Jean Paul looked up. Innocently, he asked, “Brother Giovanni, do you approve?”

“Approve? Approve!? Giovanni could hardly breathe as he spoke. “These are very old, hand-carved oak planks. They require only the finest oils to protect them. Soap and water are their enemy. You are using supplies from the east housekeeping closet.”

Jean Paul’s head fell in shame.

Standing near by was the head Prior. He overheard Giovanni scolding Jean Paul. Taking pity upon the juggler, he approached the two men.

“Brother Giovanni, I will handle this matter.” Then gently putting his arm around the shoulders of Jean Paul, the Prior led him toward the chapel. Perhaps, this man, untalented in the basics of life, would succeed in the choir. After all, he first discovered Jean Paul out on the sidewalk singing and performing.

Jean Paul happily joined the choir. He loved singing and knew that this is where he belonged. But it wasn’t long before the director tapped his baton and stopped the rehearsal. “Jean Paul,

tonight we will be singing at the 'Procession of the Gifts.' Our performance must be exquisite for such an occasion. Your voice is so loud and does not blend in with the others. I am sorry but you will have to leave."

Jean Paul sadly left the choir and went to his room. He knew that it was time to leave this monastery, for he did not fit in. Before he left, he lay down on his bed to take a short rest and fell sound asleep. When he awoke the day had turned to night. He gathered his humble belongings, and quietly slipped out into the hall and down the stairs.

It was then that Jean Paul heard the music. He stood behind the curtains and peaked into the great hall of the chapel. The room was ablaze with candlelight. Organ music and singing filled the rafters and pews. Jean Paul watched the procession of so many people - brothers, priests and the townspeople. They were winding their way through the great chapel, carrying their beautiful gifts. As each person reached the statue, they laid their gift at Mary's feet.

When the church emptied of all the people and was darkened except for the bright lights of the candles surrounding the Blessed Mary, Jean Paul dared to walk toward her and stand before the statue.

"Oh, Great Lady, I wish I had a gift worthy to give to you," Jean Paul said. "I cannot sing or bake or even clean floors. All I can do is juggle." Then his face lit up. He walked back to his bag and put on his juggling costume and makeup.

Jean Paul stood before the statue and began his act. First he tossed the white, yellow and pink balls high into the air. Then he added the violet. Next the purple and then the green. Finally, he added the blue. Now he had seven balls twirling in a circle, a blaze of color. Higher and higher the balls filled the air. It was as if his own Causal Body was twirling before the statue.

Just then two Brothers happened to be passing by. Horrified, they both yelled, "Sacrilege!" (*meaning misuse of something sacred*) as they rushed off to get the head Prior.

But Jean Paul didn't hear or notice them. When the three returned, the Prior was about to stop this thoughtless juggler. However, before he could say a word, something happened. A miracle.

The statue of Mother Mary stepped down from her pedestal and gently wiped the brow of the juggler. Then smiling at him, she returned to her stand.

The three monks dropped to their knees in honor of this humble man before them. For they realized that his heart was pure and full of love.

CONCLUSION:

What can we learn from this story? (*Allow children to answer.*)
Yes, we cannot judge others. For everyone's talents and walk with God is different. And it's important that we give our gifts and not try to be like others. It is important that we each let our own star of God shine.

Thank you for participating in our children's story. Have a wonderful day.

