

# Postal Service

## An Under-Used Religious Education Tool



Every child loves to receive mail. Every parent appreciates adults who take an interest in his/her child. Combine these two positives by making good use of our postal system. For very little time and the price of a postage stamp, you can increase the impact you make on every family represented in your class.

### Possible benefits:

1. Help increase attendance in your religious education class.
2. Capture the parents' interest in what is happening in your class.
3. Possibly so impress the parents with your mail correspondence to their child that they may get more involved in the Church School program.

### Here are some ideas for religious education by mail.

1. **Picture postcards. Time commitment - 2 minutes.** Collect picture postcards of your own community or of places you visit. Send them to students with just a two-sentence message.
2. **All-Occasion Cards. Time commitment - 2 minutes.** Buy a collection of age-graded cards for any number of occasions - Illness, Missed You, Happy Vacation, Happy Nameday, etc. Watch for occasions to send them. Keep a list of students' names and put a check after each name when you mail something. Try to keep the checks even. If a child is never sick or away on vacation, send the student a "Thinking of You" card.
3. **Do-It-Yourself Cards. Time commitment - 5 minutes.** Purchase cards with no inside message and use them for messages that are unique to what your class is studying. Take the opportunity to praise the student's participation in the class.
4. **Parent Letter. Time commitment -15 minutes.** Send each parent a letter at the beginning of each quarter that explains the lessons. This involves the parents and shows them the importance of religious education, something they may not always understand. Encourage parents to contact you with questions they may have and to visit the classroom to see the materials you use. Parents have a very important role in the religious education of their children. They need to help the student live out the Faith in the home during the rest of the week.

**Involve the students.** Make cards to for students who get sick during the year. Precut construction paper to fit standard envelopes. Glue or use double-sided tape to affix a stick of gum to each card. Have students (a) draw around the gum to make pictures such as airplanes, animals, people, etc., and (b) print get-well messages on the cards: "Get Well Soon," "We Miss You," "Hope you're Feeling Better," and so on. Adapt this for other types of cards as well: Birthdays, St. Valentine's Day, Christmas greetings, etc.

