

## HOLY WEEK IN A BOX

*For families with young children*

*We have found that, for parents, there are few topics more difficult to talk about with young children than Holy Week. Parents are concerned about their children's readiness to think about death and suffering in general, and specifically of Jesus whom we have taught them to love and emulate. Certainly, a lot of the Holy Week theology will be over their heads and most adults also continue to change and grow in their own understanding. The following resources are simply ways of exploring the narrative in the gospels. It provides language for the who, where, and what happened. Equipped with this language, children and youth can continue on, long past this Easter to explore the why, and what it has to do with them and our shared faith. Again, don't worry, just walk with them. Share your own questions but try not to project fears you may have beyond admitting that you have them, as Jesus knew.*

(If you don't have these exact materials, you can probably make or find substitutes in your homes. If you made an Alleluia origami box you could use that. For the Jesus figure, you could make a cut-out or make one with clay or pipe cleaners. Try to be thoughtful about your materials. Take your time. Make it holy.)

