

## Cough Drops in Church Puppet Show *[Anticipation of Holy Communion]*

*(Adapted from the work of Louise Ferry)*

<b>Mommy</b>	Michael, what do you like best about going to Mass?
<b>Michael</b>	I like cough drops.
<b>Mommy</b>	I know you like cough drops, but what do you like best about Mass?
<b>Michael</b>	Well, cough drops are important to little kids like me.
<b>Mommy</b>	Cough drops are very nice if you have a cough.
<b>Michael</b>	You mean if I don't have a cough, they're not nice?
<b>Mommy</b>	Oh, I imagine you'd like them anytime, but they're for a cough.
<b>Michael</b>	Well, I like them in church.
<b>Mommy</b>	Cough or not?
<b>Michael</b>	I feel so good while I'm sitting next to you and kind of snuggling up, chewing on a cough drop.
<b>Mommy</b>	What kind of good?
<b>Michael</b>	Warm -- like belonging, you know.
<b>Mommy</b>	Belonging?
<b>Michael</b>	That's the way I feel about being at Mass with you and Daddy. I belong here, chewing on a cough drop, where the music is and where the Bible says that God loves me even if I am a little kid.
<b>Mommy</b>	Even if?
<b>Michael</b>	Well, I don't have a job or anything like that, but God doesn't seem to mind.
<b>Mommy</b>	No, God doesn't seem to mind at all. In fact, I'd venture that God likes very much to have you at Mass, unemployed though you might be.
<b>Michael</b>	Cough drops and all?
<b>Mommy</b>	Cough drops and all!
<b>Michael</b>	Mommy, when will I get to receive Holy Communion?
<b>Mommy</b>	Next year, sweetie. You've got to learn lots of important things before you receive the Blessed Sacrament.
<b>Michael</b>	I like to pretend that my cough drop is the Blessed Sacrament.
<b>Mommy</b>	Oh, you're funny.

<b>Michael</b>	I'm just kidding, Mom.
<b>Mommy</b>	You know, next year you won't be able to eat anything right before Mass, and you'll only be able to suck on a cough drop in church when you've really got a cough.
<b>Michael</b>	Why?
<b>Mommy</b>	Because you'll be receiving Holy Communion and you've got to have an empty tummy right before you receive Jesus.
<b>Michael</b>	I bet receiving Jesus into my tummy will be even nicer than cough drops.
<b>Mommy</b>	Much nicer.
<b>Michael</b>	And make me feel even more of God's love.
<b>Mommy</b>	Much more.
<b>Michael</b>	And help me be even gooder in church.
<b>Mommy</b>	Much gooder, I mean "better!"
<b>Michael</b>	Badder?
<b>Mommy</b>	No, BETTER. You'll be able to be even better when you've received Holy Communion. Each time you receive the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus will be working inside you to make you more and more like Himself!
<b>Michael</b>	Cool. More and more like Jesus! Will I be able to talk to Him while He's inside me working?
<b>Mommy</b>	Absolutely. You can talk to Him any time, but especially right after you receive Holy Communion. That is a very special time for talking to Jesus.
<b>Michael</b>	Oh, Mommy. I can't wait. Jesus is going to be way better than cough drops.
<b>Mommy</b>	That's right my little lovie! God bless you, son.

The End