

**A CCD teacher was explaining to her first graders about Ash Wednesday. Of course the children were curious about where the ashes came from. The teacher explained that the ashes came from burned palms.**

**The next day was Ash Wednesday. While the students were lining up to attend mass, the little girl asked, "Do the ashes hurt?" The teacher replied, "No, they don't hurt." When they got in church, the little girl turned to the teacher and asked, "Do you feel the bones?" the teacher replied, "No, it feels like powder." The questions troubled the teacher. After Mass, she talked to another teacher about the little girl's questions. After discussing it, they figured out the little girl was thinking of the palm of a hand, rather than leaves of a palm branch.**