

Fr Casey gathers the children around him in front of the altar and then brings out Fr Charley wearing an ARISE badge around his neck:

Fr Ch: Hello boys and girls, how are you, etc.....

Topo: enters singing happily, bouncing along

Fr Ch: Well, hello, Topo... come join us

T: Thanks, Fr Charley! I was just.... WAIT! What are you wearing today, Fr. Charley?! What's that around your neck?

Fr Ch: What, Topo – this badge?

Topo: uh huh.... Uh huh.... Uh huh....

Fr Ch: Well... this says "ARISE!" Do you like it? Do you like the colors?

T: Well, yes....it's bright and I noticed it right away – BUT what's it for?

Why are you wearing it, Fr Ch?

Fr Ch: OH... well, this is a very important weekend, Topo. It's Sign-up Weekend.

T: Sign-up? Sign up for what?

Fr Ch: well.... For ARISE. Topo

T: ay yi yi yi.....There's that word again! What is ARISE all about???

Fr Ch: well, Topo, it's something that a whole bunch of people have been doing at St Agatha's for a year now.

T: A whole bunch?

FC: Yup... more than 200 people!!!

T: WOW! That IS a lot of people!

conspiratorially: I bet they were all old people, huh, Fr Charley?

FC: Oh no, Topo! In fact...I bet some of our young friends right here know kids in high school and college who've joined ARISE

And their Moms and Dads, too...

Looking out to the assembly: And you're not old, are you, Moms and Dads??

T: Huh! I didn't know that, Fr Ch.

But but but but....

What do you DO when you in ARISE???

It's probably boring, huh?? I bet you just sit around listening to some one person talking , talking, talking about something BORING.....

OR.... It's probably for people who don't have anything to do, huh, Fr Charley?

Fr Ch: No Way, Topo..... It's a lot of FUN! And everybody in the groups have lots of other things to do in their lives but they come to ARISE because it's not boring at all!

Because you get to meet new people and you can talk about all kinds of things that really matter to you....just like Jesus' friends used to do with him.

You know, Topo..... Jesus loved to talk to people about anything that was on their mind.... Things they were happy about, things they were worried about...things they needed help with... things that made them sad.... Things they wanted to help him with.... Anything at all.

And we do that in ARISE.... We talk to each other and we listen and we hear from Jesus, too....

T: You hear from JESUS?????

Fr Ch: That's right... Jesus talks to us all the time in the gospels and so when we get together in ARISE we listen to him talking right to us in the gospels!!

And that's NOT boring! It's wonderful, Topo! You just ask anyone who's been in an Arise group... they'll tell you themselves how much they really liked it.

T: Hmmmm..... Fr Ch??

FR Ch: Yes, Topo?

Topo: It sounds like YOU've been in an ARISE group....

Fr Ch: Oh Yes, Topo.... All the priests in all the Milton parishes get together and have an ARISE group.... Some of us are retired, some of us are pastors, and some of us are pretty young, like Fr Bob..... we have a great time eating together, sharing stories together, and talking about

Jesus together. This year I'm really excited because it's going to be all about "walking in the footsteps of Jesus"

Topo: Walking in the footsteps of Jesus?? How do you do THAT, Fr Ch???

Fr Ch: Good question, Topo, and that's why I'm excited.... I want to hear from all my friends how THEY do that.... It will give me some good ideas to think about... it will be a big help to me.

T: Fr Ch???

Fr CH: Yes, Topo?

T: Do you think they could find a group for a mouse like me???

Fr Ch: You know what, Topo.... There are more than 20 groups that meet at all different times and all different days in all different places in the parish once a week for six weeks.... So I KNOW they would find a place for you! Tell you what.... Let's go downstairs after Mass and talk to the ARISE Team... they have coffee and doughnuts down there and they are really hoping we'll go down to meet them... what do you say?

T: I say YES!! Let's ARISE! get up and Go downstairs After Mass, of course!

Fr Ch: You've got a deal, Topo... see you downstairs after Mass!