

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

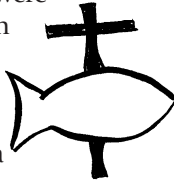
January 2007



Thoughtful Moments

Fishers of Men

The first Apostles were fishermen working in the Sea of Galilee. The fish there was known for their quality and fetched a high price. Next time you eat some fresh fish, remember Peter and Simon, James and John, the hard-working fishermen who left their boats to follow Jesus.

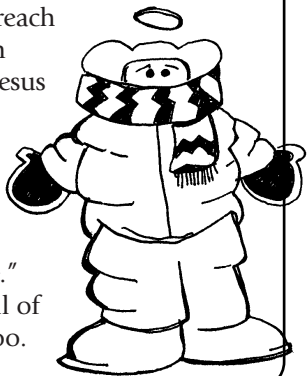


The son of a carpenter

Joseph's job as a carpenter in Nazareth was no cakewalk. He would have had to work hard making plows and farm implements or repairing tools and furniture. Joseph shows us the dignity of hard work and physical labor.

We are all apostles

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, an apostle is one who is sent as Jesus was sent by the Father, and as he sent his disciples to preach the Gospel. In Mark 16:15, Jesus tells us to "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." That makes all of us apostles, too.



Modest dress for today's Catholic kids

Current fashions – even if immodest – often feel right to young people because they see them accepted by their friends and favorite celebrities. Many styles today are too tight and show too much skin to be considered modest. The more revealing the clothes children wear, the more distracted people may be from their personalities, accomplishments, and their faith. Instead, try these tips to help children dress modestly and fashionably, too.

Layers can make it work. Does your child love low-cut styles or bottoms that show underwear? Try pairing a tank top under a top with a plunging neckline or a wear a pair of running

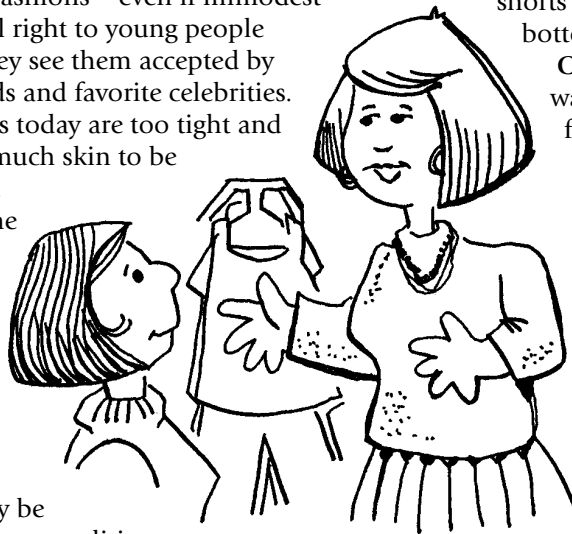
shorts under sagging bottoms.

Color me funky. One way to make modesty fun is to take note of what the season's hottest colors are, and then find modest clothing in those colors.

Use the light. Transparent fabric is designed to reveal rather than conceal the body. If you place a layer of fabric over a newspaper and

can see the lines of letters through it, the fabric is too sheer.

Make it fit. If your child falls in love with something that you think is too tight, try getting it in the next size. Or, see if there is enough fabric in the seams for you (or any experienced sewer) to let it out.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

The word "vocation" has a Latin root, "vocare" meaning "to call." God calls each of us to holiness in a particular way. His call leads us to a life for which we have been prepared and that will make us happiest.

What is a vocation?

There are two sacramental vocations: sacramental marriage and Holy Orders as a priest or deacon. Other vocations include remaining single or becoming a member of a religious community. All vocations have the same goals: serving God and others.



Children can serve the Church

Young Catholics are the future of our Church. Serving their Church when they are young helps children to connect with their faith community at a personal level. That makes our children and our Church stronger. Try these ideas for helping children serve:

Altar server. Many parishes offer boys and girls the chance to be altar servers. It is a wonderful way for children to truly participate in the Eucharist. They learn the order of the Mass, learn to appreciate sacramentals, and establish healthy relationships with the clergy.



Christian witness. Young people who know the traditions, creed, teachings, and history of the Church can share their Catholic faith with others. Parents can encourage this by taking youngsters to religious education classes and attending Mass every Sunday and holy day.

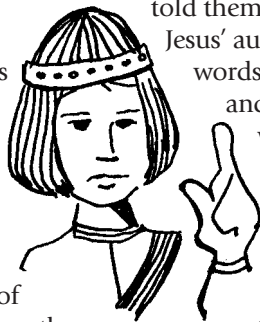
Parish support. Many parishes have opportunities for youths to serve as lectors, choir members, or ushers. Perhaps the most powerful experiences include involvement in justice and service projects such as soup kitchens, work camps, tutoring children, or visiting nursing homes.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 4:21-30, The whole truth.

In the synagogue from his childhood, Jesus read Isaiah's prophecy about the Messiah and announced that he was its fulfillment. At first his childhood friends and neighbors were amazed but became incensed when they heard what else he had to say.

We all have a different idea of who God is. At the time of Jesus, the popular idea was that the Messiah would be spectacular – a supernatural being or a triumphant king. No one expected someone familiar and ordinary in appearance. Jesus knew that their



hearts were not open to the truth and told them so.

Jesus' audience wanted comforting words, not a convicting sermon, and threw Jesus out when his words didn't please them. They forfeited his blessings because they rejected his word.

What can a parent do?

There is no substitute for the truth. It isn't always easy to hear, nor is it easy to live. Help your children know the truth about God and what he wants for us. That's the only way to enjoy the most of God's blessings and grace.

family FUN

St. Anthony Soup

St. Anthony was a monk who lived a simple life in prayer and solitude.



Homemade soups have been a part of monastic life for many years. For St. Anthony's feast on January 17th, try this easy and delicious soup.

Ingredients:

4 Tablespoons oil or margarine
1 cup barley, 3 medium carrots, grated
2 leeks or 1 medium onion, sliced fine
1/2 cup fresh, minced parsley or 2 Tbs dried parsley, salt to taste
7 cups water

1 vegetable bouillon cube and some chopped mushrooms
1. Put the oil or margarine into a large soup pot. Heat gently, add the barley and stir for 1 minute.
2. Add the carrots, leeks or onion, bay leaf, parsley, salt and water.
3. Cook the soup over low to medium heat for about 45 minutes or till the barley is tender. Add the bouillon and mushrooms. Serve hot.

Soup's done! Makes about 4 servings.

Feasts & Celebrations

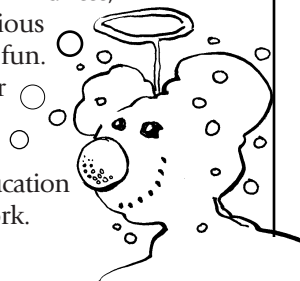
Jan. 17 – St. Anthony (356).

Anthony was a wealthy young man when he heard and followed Christ's call to "sell all you have, give it to the poor, and follow me." Afterwards he went into the desert to live as a hermit and dedicate his life to prayer. Others followed making him the founder of Christian monasticism.

Jan. 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas (1274). Kept prisoner for a year by his mother to prevent him from becoming a priest, St. Thomas Aquinas became one of the greatest theologians of the Church, honored with the titles,

"Doctor of the Church," and "Angelic Doctor." His writings are still fundamental to Christian education today.

Jan. 31 – St. John Bosco (1888). The son of a poor widow, John Bosco was ordained in Turin in 1841. After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, he opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. He offered the boys kindness, education, religious instruction and fun. John Bosco later founded the Salesian Order dedicated to education and mission work.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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