

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

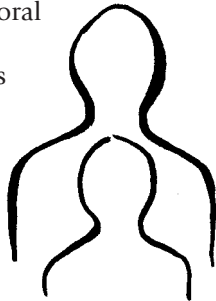
June 2007



Thoughtful Moments

Parenting is a work of mercy

As Christians, we are called to practice the corporal works of mercy. Every day parents have many opportunities to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, comfort the sick, shelter the homeless, and we don't even have to leave home. In this way, parenting becomes both a job and a prayer.

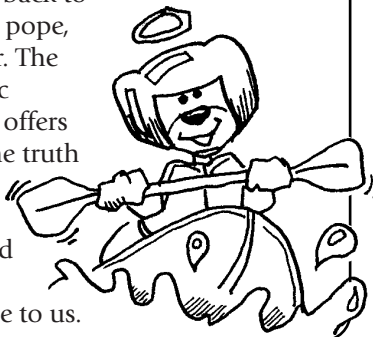


Something beautiful for God

"To show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much we put into the doing, that makes our offering something beautiful for God."
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Our Catholic roots

The Roman Catholic Church is the same one Jesus began. We can trace the Pope's predecessors directly back to the first pope, St. Peter. The Catholic Church offers us all the truth and gifts that God makes available to us.



Have a holy summer

The lazy days of summer can be a great time to bring your family closer to God. Try ideas like these to have a happy and holy summer:

Sing a psalm.

Choose a psalm that praises God for his mercy, kindness, and love, such as Psalm 103. Learn a new line each week and sing or recite it together

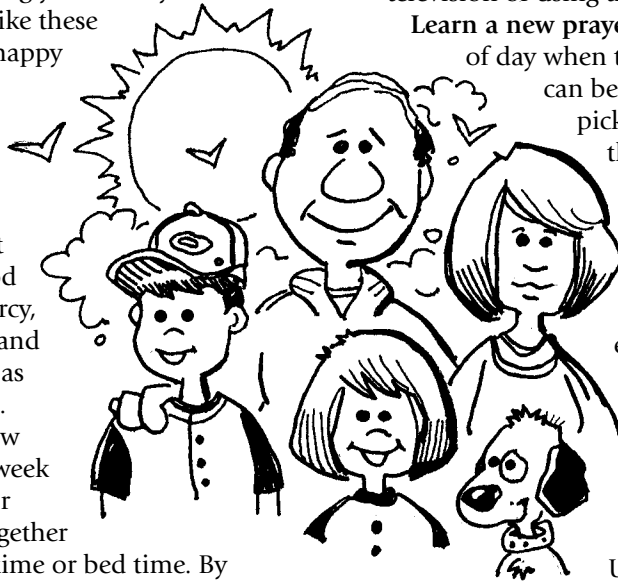
at dinner time or bed time. By summer's end, you will have learned a new way to praise God.

Strengthen a virtue. For example, fortitude can be practiced by setting a family exercise goal and consistently working toward it together. Temperance can be practiced by limiting the

amount of time spent watching television or using the computer.

Learn a new prayer. Choose a time of day when the whole family can be together. Then pick a prayer to say at that time, such as

"Come, Holy Spirit," the prayer to St. Michael, or the morning or evening offering prayers. For ideas, consult *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* from the U.S. Conference of



Catholic Bishops (202-722-8716, www.usccb.org).

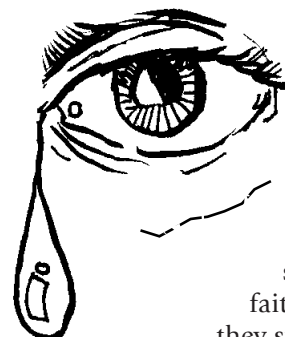
Visit him each week. Weekly Mass is an important way to bring your family closer to God. Even when you are on vacation, visit www.parishesonline.com to find a Mass close by.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics honor martyrs?

A martyr is a witness to the faith who remains faithful to Christ even in the face of death.

Christians who will not renounce their faith despite persecution and death have been honored since the first days of the

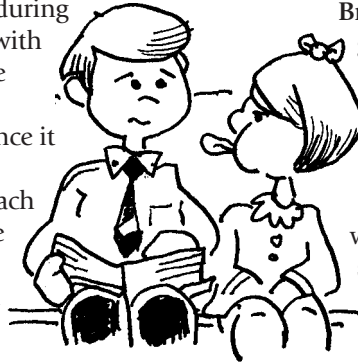


Church. Missionaries, converts and believers around the world suffered through the centuries, and still do. We do not honor them because they suffer, but because their faith remains strong although they suffer.

Four tips for improving Mass manners

Even older children have trouble focusing during Mass from time to time, but enduring Mass with disruptive children can be trying on everyone involved. Try these tips to improve your children's Mass manners so they can experience it with their hearts and minds:

Practice sitting still. Take a few minutes each day and read from your family Bible. Choose Gospel stories with which your children are familiar, then move on to the Old Testament or epistles. That will help children become familiar with what they will hear.



Bring an age-appropriate missal. Missals that are geared toward your children's ages can help them follow and understand the Mass better. Not only do good children's missals include Mass prayers, they often include explanations so youngsters can follow what is going on.

Share peace. Giving the sign of peace is a great way to get all children involved. Practice at home so your youngsters will know how to appropriately greet grown-ups as fellow-Christians.

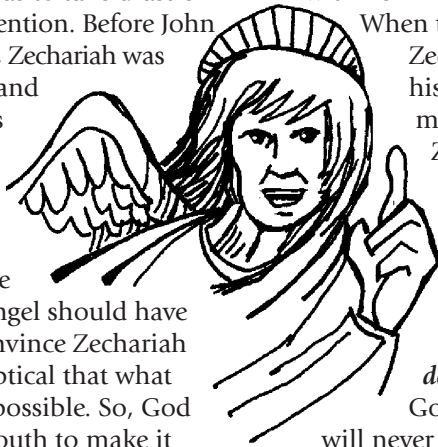
Reward reverence. Reinforce good behavior with a treat after Mass is over.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 1:57-66, Take God at his word.

Sometimes God has to take drastic action to get our attention. Before John the Baptist was born, Zechariah was visited by an angel and told that his prayers for a son and his prayers for a savior would be answered in a miraculous way. The appearance of an angel should have been enough to convince Zechariah but he was still skeptical that what the angel said was possible. So, God shut Zechariah's mouth to make it easier for him to hear and see the truth.

After the angel's visit, Zechariah silently watched his wife's body swell



with her miraculous pregnancy.

When the baby was born, Zechariah demonstrated his obedience and his mouth was opened.

Zechariah's first words showered praise on God and told the people around him of God's faithfulness and awesome love.

What can a parent do? We can always trust God's love and care. He

will never fail us. Help your children listen for God's voice and remember that all things are possible for God.

Feasts & Celebrations

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Display an image of the Sacred Heart in your home and pray, "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in thee."

June 1 - St. Justin (165). Born in Samaria, Justin was a pagan philosopher who found the ultimate truth in Jesus Christ. He defended Christianity in several written works, and was martyred for his faith.

June 11 - St. Barnabas (1st century). The Apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, which means "son

of encouragement" because he sold his property and gave the much needed funds to the Jerusalem community. He accompanied St. Paul on his first evangelical journey.

June 24 - Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The only saint whose birth and death we observe, St. John was Jesus' cousin. He baptized and prepared the people for Jesus' saving mission. He even baptized Jesus and was later executed for denouncing Herod's marriage to his sister-in-law.



Parent TALK

My ten-year old daughter loves animals and gets upset when species are threatened by humans.



In religion class, Tessa learned the responsibility Catholics have to speak up when we feel government strays from Christian principles. She decided to write to the President of the United States to ask that he do all he can to protect

God's creatures. So we sat down together and wrote a letter to the President.

About two weeks later, Tessa got a letter from the White House. It was signed by the President and specifically addressed her own letter. Tessa was thrilled and immediately started listing other concerns to discuss with her new friend.

For me, it is enough that someone in the President's office read and responded to Tessa's letter. Tessa needed to make her Catholic voice heard. It's the start of being a responsible American Catholic.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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