

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2007



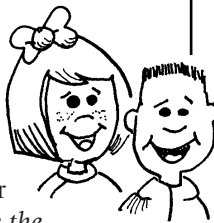
Thoughtful Moments

Never more than we can bear

"No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it"
(1 Corinthians 10:13).

God's great gift

Our children really belong to God but he has trusted us with the awesome responsibility of their upbringing. *"They are the children whom God has graciously bestowed on your servant"* (Genesis 33:5). That's one way we know that he loves both them and us.



Actions speak

Jesus said we can show our love for him by treating others with love. Remind children that we must always be kind, even if someone is not always kind to us. That's what Jesus would do. *"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth"*
(1 John 3:18).



Do you have a future saint?

If your child's halo hasn't yet appeared, don't give up hope that you have a saint-in-the-making. In fact, some of the saints were rather unsaintly in their early lives, too. Helping children get to know the saints presents models of holiness they can follow. For example:

St. Augustine drove his mother crazy. A devout Christian, St. Monica agonized over her son's partying, paganism, and lack of respect for holiness. She prayed for him for years and kept faith in God's power to work miracles. Slowly, Augustine straightened-up, was baptized, and became one of the great saints of the Church.

St. Francis of Assisi loved his

carefree life of luxury and barely gave a thought to the poor.

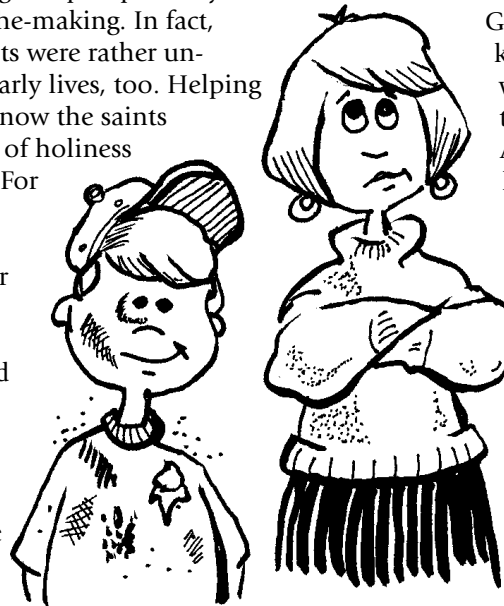
God had to literally knock him off his feet with a deadly illness to get his attention. After that, he even lived without many of what we consider basic necessities.

With his mother's blessing, Francis denied God nothing for the rest of his life.

St. Thomas Becket enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King

Henry II. To please the king, he almost forgot his love for the Church. But Thomas came to his senses and gave up his power and position to protect the Church. He was martyred for it.

If they can do it, so can we all.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we pray for the souls in Purgatory?

All who die in God's friendship go to Heaven. But if we haven't properly atoned for our sins, we are purified in Purgatory first. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls Purgatory, "a final cleansing of human



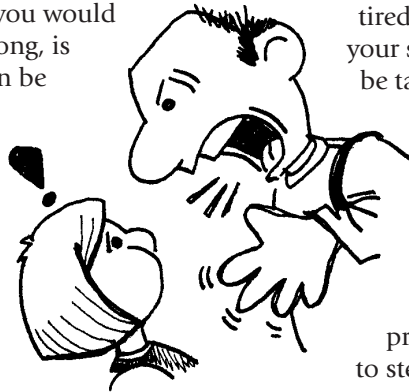
imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven."

Praying for the souls in Purgatory helps them pass through faster than they would otherwise. *"Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin"*
(2Maccabees 12:46).

Are you a quick-trigger parent?

Do you find yourself yelling more than you would like? When your child does something wrong, is anger your first response? In fact, anger can be damaging to the parent-child relationship because it clouds our judgment. It causes us to act impulsively rather than with love. Worse, it takes only a split-second to lose control and say or do something you will regret.

Watch for it. Anger is difficult to control under certain circumstances. When you are depressed, afraid, sick, or



tired, you are particularly vulnerable. Also, when your spiritual life isn't healthy and you may not be taking enough time to nurture it, your anger may be quick to flare. Try to remain conscious of these conditions and avoid them if you can.

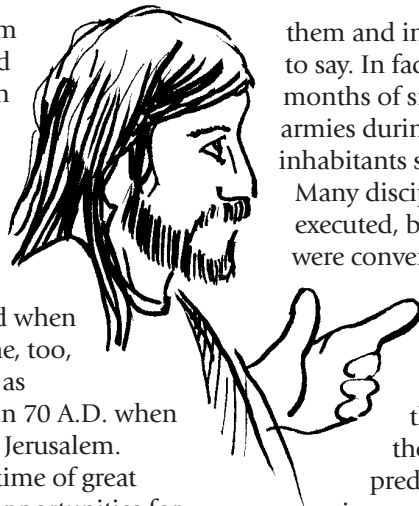
Care for yourself. Keeping yourself healthy mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually is something you do for yourself AND your family. If anger is a problem for you, try figuring out what you need to stem your anger and get it right away.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 21:5-19,
God always tells the truth.

The Temple of Jerusalem that the disciples admired was not the one Solomon had built. That one was destroyed by the Babylonians in the sixth century B.C. This Temple was newer and grander. Imagine the bombshell Jesus dropped when he told them that this one, too, would be destroyed. Just as Jesus said, it was ruined in 70 A.D. when the Roman army burned Jerusalem.

Jesus also warned of a time of great suffering and predicted opportunities for the disciples to tell their persecutors about Jesus. He promised to be with



them and inspire them in what to say. In fact, Jerusalem fell after months of siege by the Roman armies during which its inhabitants suffered terribly.

Many disciples were tried and executed, but many people were converted as a result of their testimony.

What can a parent do?

Remind children that God always tells the truth. As Jesus' predictions of difficult times came true, so will his promises of happiness in the next life if we stay true to him.

Feasts & Celebrations

In November we celebrate the saints on All Saints Day (Nov. 1) and pray for our loved ones and souls in Purgatory on All Souls Day (Nov. 2).

Nov. 4 – St. Charles Borromeo (1584). After earning doctorates in civil and canon law by the age of 21, he was called to Rome by his uncle, Pope Pius IV, to be cardinal and bishop of Milan. He led by example to reform his diocese and tirelessly worked for the poor and sick in his care.

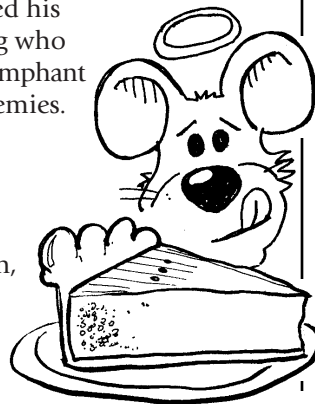
Nov. 10 – Pope St. Leo, the Great (461). Pope St. Leo helped the Church stay united despite attacks

from false teachers and warring tribes. He is famous for his explanations of the faith.

Nov. 25 – Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King.

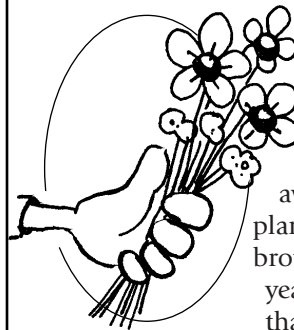
God promised his people a king who would be triumphant over their enemies.

Jesus is our King. In Baptism and Confirmation, we are brought under his kingship.



Parent TALK

Losing my father last year was hard. So when All Soul's Day came, we headed for the cemetery. Dad's headstone had



just been installed so we prayed in front of it.

Then we got to work clearing away leaves and planted the mums I brought. My eight-year-old, Nick, said that we made Dad's

grave look like he was loved.

Before we left, Nick looked around at the neighboring sites and noticed some obviously hadn't been visited in a while. So we cleaned up all those graves, too. Nick picked wild flowers we placed at the graves. As we worked, we read each person's name off the headstone and said a short prayer for him or her.

When we finished Nick asked if I thought Grandpa was watching. I said I was sure that Grandpa was standing by our Lord's side telling him all about his special grandson. That idea made us both feel better.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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