

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

September 2008



Thoughtful Moments

Catholic youth

"Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus, to find your joy in doing his will, giving yourself completely to the pursuit of holiness," the Pope recently told young people gathered in Sydney, Australia. *"With prayer and openness, young people can receive the power of the Holy Spirit and transform the world."*

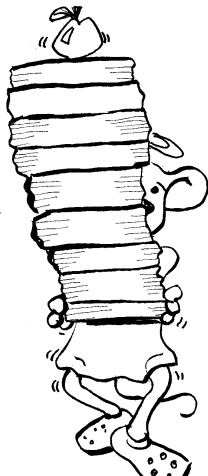


Charity is love

CHARITY: The theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1822*).

Family prayer is powerful

"Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19-20).



Five ways to raise nicer children

"My mother always said you attract more bees with honey than you do with vinegar. She wanted us to be nice," said Lisa. Chris said, "My fifth grade teacher said that you can get through life with bad manners, but good manners make everything easier." Consider these five ways to help children be nicer people:

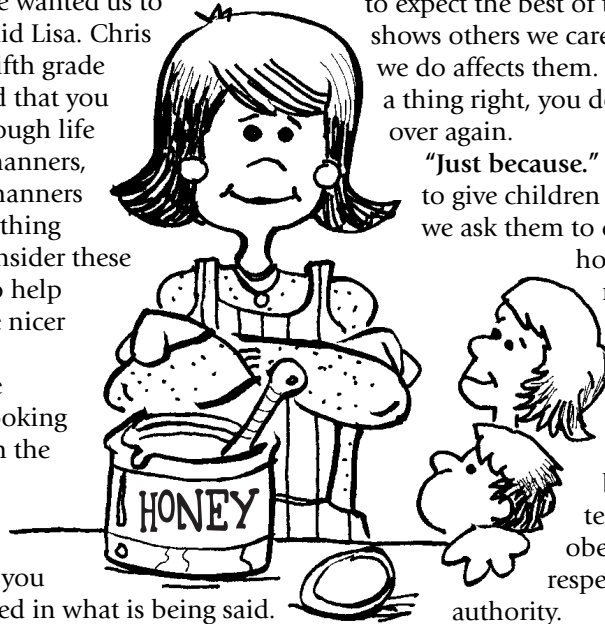
Make eye contact. Looking someone in the eye when speaking tells others that you are interested in what is being said. Good eye contact demonstrates respect for others, as well as ourselves.

Always say, "thank you." Express appreciation for anything you get.

Do it right the first time. Taking time to do a job well teaches children to expect the best of themselves and shows others we care about how what we do affects them. And, when you do a thing right, you don't have to do it over again.

"Just because." As parents, we try to give children reasons for what we ask them to do. Sometimes, however, children need to do things "just because" we ask or "just because" it's the right thing to do. The "just because" rule teaches children obedience and respect for proper authority.

Be polite. A child who listens without interrupting, respects others' opinions, and uses a friendly tone of voice will be welcome anywhere.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Sometimes when someone took on a new role in the Kingdom, God assigned a new name. For example, Jesus named Simon "Peter" when he became the leader of the Church (Matthew 16:18). Saul was renamed Paul when he became an Apostle (Acts 13:9).

Why do we take a Confirmation name?

Upon Confirmation, we also take on a new role in the Church and take on a new name. We choose the name of a saint who we hope will inspire us to a greater holiness. Our patron becomes a friend for life.



10 prayers for every Catholic child

People who pray take life's ups and downs with grace and peace. Here are 10 basic Catholic prayers to teach your children:

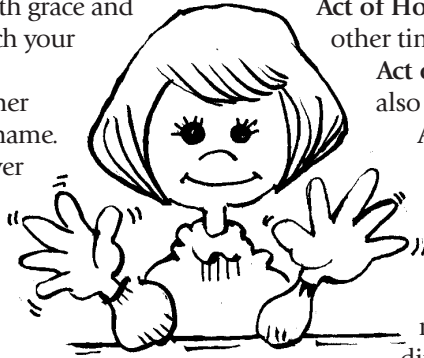
Sign of the Cross. Prayed before and after other prayers, it reminds us we do all things in God's name.

Our Father. A great morning or evening prayer to say as a family.

Hail Mary. Learning this prayer is the first step toward praying the Rosary.

Glory Be. Any child can learn this simple prayer of praise.

Act of Faith. A nice way to start the day.



Act of Hope. Children can pray it before a test or other times they need God's help.

Act of Charity. Expresses love for God, but it is also a daily reminder to forgive and love others.

Act of Contrition. Essential for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but a nice prayer for bedtime, too.

Grace before meals. Reminds us that all good things come from God.

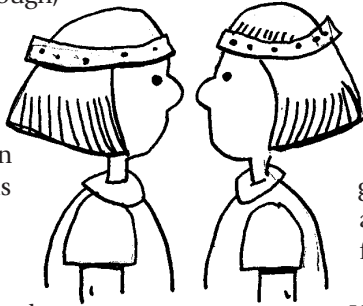
Guardian Angel Prayer. Helps us remember that God sends us help in many different ways.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 21:28-32, Which son was right?

When Jesus used stories to teach, his parables weren't always easy to figure out. This time, though, even the priests and Pharisees realized that he was speaking of them. By their own answer to Jesus' question asking which son did his father's bidding, the leaders condemned themselves.

The first son who refused to do his father's bidding but relented and obeyed represented the outcasts such as tax collectors and prostitutes. The second son who pretended obedience but defied his father symbolized the religious



leaders. They pretended to live by God's laws while privately pursuing their own interests. These leaders were stung by the idea that sinners would make it into Heaven before they would. Still, they were unwilling to give up their pride, learn at Jesus' feet, and seek forgiveness.

What can a parent do?

Help your children realize that we follow God's laws because we love him and want to be with him in Heaven for eternity. God wants our heart-felt obedience, not just our empty promises.

Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 14 – Feast: Exaltation of the Holy Cross (300s BC). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine), made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem retracing places in Jesus' life. When she tore down the Temple of Aphrodite, workers found three crosses, one of which was thought to be the Cross on which Jesus died. On the site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

Sept. 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows. In Luke 2:35, Simeon predicted Mary's sorrows as "a sword piercing" her soul. This referred in part to a time when

Mary would stand at the foot of her son's Cross. Despite her sorrow, Mary stood dignified and fearless while others fled.

Sept. 17 – St. Robert Bellarmine (1621). A Jesuit, St. Robert was dedicated to accurately recording Church doctrine to protect it from attack from Protestants.

Among many activities, he became theologian to Pope Clement VIII, preparing two catechisms which have had great influence in the Church.



Parent TALK

Our family life is stressful. My daughter has a life-threatening condition that requires constant management, so we're always on edge. That makes me chronically cranky. I didn't realize how at odds this was with living my Catholic faith until, "The Parking Lot Incident."

We were racing to make a doctor's appointment that had been scheduled months ago. If we were late, we'd lose it. As I was pulling into the last open parking space, another car slid in before me. I honked but the driver ignored me.

I actually got out of my car and walked toward the driver yelling and screaming. My two terrified children sat in the back seat in shock at my behavior ... all for a parking space.

Fortunately the driver kept walking and I felt like a fool. Lots of prayer and Confession have since helped me to behave more like the follower of Jesus I want to be.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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