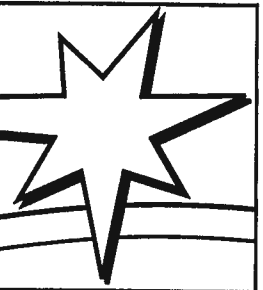


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2012

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Theresa S. Bowen, DRE



Thoughtful Moments

A new year begins

Each year the Church begins a new liturgical year on the Sunday closest to the feast of the apostle Andrew (November 30). This year the first Sunday of Advent is December 2nd. We begin Year C in the liturgical cycle.

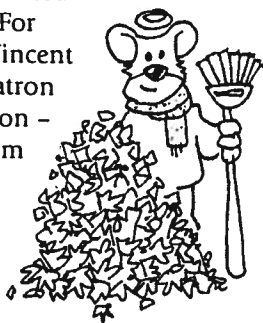
Consider a "date" with your child

There's no substitute for devoting undivided attention to your children, the trick is to find the time. Consider scheduling monthly "dates." Go for walks, eat lunch out, go to the movies – one parent, one child. You'll both appreciate the undivided attention.



Pick a cause

Prayer isn't the only thing we can do to make the world better; it's the best thing we can do. Try this: Choose an event from the news that brings concern to your family. Then find a saint devoted to that cause. For example, St. Vincent Ferrer – the patron of reconciliation – and pray to him to end the conflict in Afghanistan.



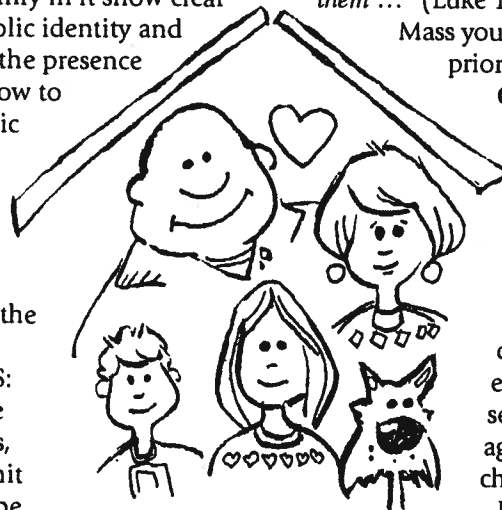
What makes a Catholic home special?

In a truly Catholic home, both the home and the family in it show clear evidence of Catholic identity and consciousness of the presence of God. Here is how to enrich the Catholic identity of your home:

Dedication to prayer. Teach children to pray often and perfect the basic elements of prayer using ACTS: Adoration - praise God for who he is, Confession - admit wrongdoing and be sincerely sorry, Thanksgiving - recall all God's blessings, and Supplication - make requests for ourselves and others.

Devotion to the Sacraments. Sacraments are the fabric of Catholic life. In particular, Catholic families are nurtured by weekly Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "Let the

children come to me, and do not hinder them ..." (Luke 18:16). Make weekly Mass your family's top priority.



Commitment to work. Each of us has an obligation to work and serve our families, our communities, and our world. It is important that children be given early opportunities to serve through age-appropriate chores.

Determination of obedience. Jesus was obedient to his parents on earth and to his Father in Heaven. Teaching children to be obedient like Jesus when they are young will encourage them to continue imitating him as they grow.

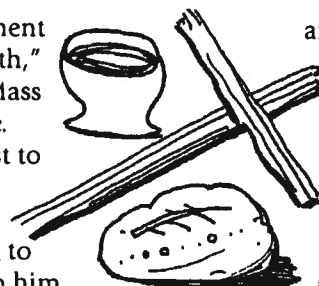
Sharing of Love. Catholic homes are full of genuine, mutual love that flows from God to each member of the family.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why are Catholics required to attend Mass on Sunday?

The third Commandment is "Keep holy the Sabbath," and attending Sunday Mass is our Catholic response.

However, we aren't just to attend Mass; we are to participate. By doing so, we prove that we belong to Christ and are faithful to him

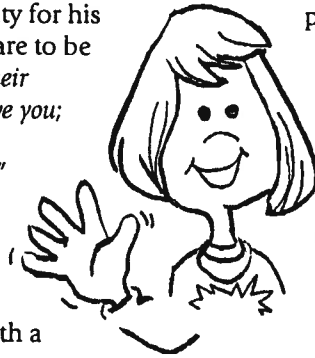


and his Church. We also "give witness to our communion in faith and charity, testify to God's holiness and our hope in salvation, and strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2182)

Five simple steps to forgiveness

Jesus was clear: forgiveness is a top priority for his followers. We must offer forgiveness if we are to be forgiven ourselves. *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:14-15). Plus, it feels terrible to hold a grudge. Try teaching children these five steps for forgiveness early, so that forgiveness becomes a lifelong habit:

Pray – As with everything we do, start with a



prayer and ask God to grant you the spirit of true forgiveness.

Acknowledge– Then approach the person with whom you are angry and acknowledge what happened between you. Be prepared to disagree on the facts.

Having a say is all that matters.

Explain – Tell the other person how you feel. Acknowledge his or her feelings, too.

Offer – Say that you want to offer forgiveness so that you can both move beyond this experience.

Forgive – Shake hands or give a hug and let it go.

Scripture LESSON

John 18:33-37; Jesus testifies to the truth

This gospel tells of Pilate's questioning of Jesus at his trial. He had been handed over to the Romans by the Jewish leaders, to be put to death since he had claimed to be the Messiah. If Christ were a worldly king he would be a threat to the Roman emperor, something Pilate couldn't allow. So Pilate was trying to find out just who Jesus was.

Christ said that while he is a king, his kingdom is not of this world. Instead, Jesus came into the world to testify to the "truth," to testify to the Father, to



bring the good news of salvation to all humanity. That's the purpose of his existence.

Pilate was skeptical of Jesus and his being a king. The apostles, on the other hand, looked upon him as their king.

That is the essence of the choice each of us must make. Is Jesus my king or not?

What can a parent do? Parents can explain to their children that Jesus is our king and savior. We can have faith in him and trust him.

Feasts & Celebrations

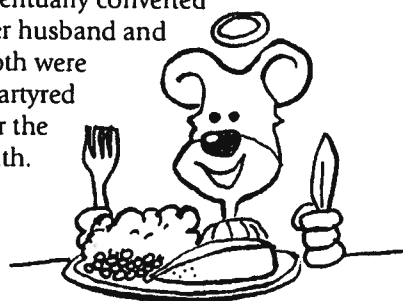
Nov. 1 – All Saints Day. In the early Church, there was a desire to celebrate the saints and martyrs by assigning each a feast day. However, the persecution of Christians was so bad that there weren't enough days in the calendar for individual commemorations. Eventually Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1 as All Saints Day.

Nov. 2 – All Souls Day. On this day we pray for the dead, especially our loved ones and souls in Purgatory. Our prayers and sacrifices can help them get to Heaven faster.

Nov. 13 – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1917). Mother Cabrini started the

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Italy and founded 67 institutions to care for the sick and forgotten in Europe and the Americas. She was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized.

Nov. 22 – St. Cecilia (230). A native of Rome, St. Cecilia was forced to marry although she wanted to consecrate herself to God. She eventually converted her husband and both were martyred for the faith.



Parent TALK

My girls never understood why we honor saints. "If they are dead, how can they help us?" Tessa asked. I explained

that saints are people who lived with extraordinary virtue and are in Heaven as a result. Following their examples can help us get to Heaven, too.



And, if we ask for their help, they will intercede for us with God. They still didn't get it.

One day Kara found a picture of my college graduation. "Is that Mother Teresa?" she asked. I said yes, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta spoke at my college graduation.

I repeated some of what Mother Teresa said that day and even read aloud from some of her books. The girls were impressed that this saintly woman lived in their lifetimes. Then I told them I had given our family to her special protection when she died. "So she is like our patron saint," said Kara. Bingo.

Our Mission

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