

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

25 Boulevard, NE, Atlanta 30312

Church Office: 404.522.6776

“Supports National Foster Care Awareness Month”

*May is
Foster Care Month*



“Children In Need Of Love and Families”



Please Select a Time During The Celebration Of Pentecost To Learn More:

Time

Saturday, May 18th, 2013 at 6:30 pm

Place

In the Cafeteria

Sunday, May 19th, 2013 at 9:30 & 11:30 am

Katherine Drexel Center

Key Members from the Staff of:

The United Methodist Children's Home

Will be joining us at the aforementioned times and locations during our Celebration Of Pentecost to provide us with more information on the scope of their need and the need of other agencies for people to come forward to help ***“Children In Need Of Love and Families.”***

The Foster Care Department of the United Methodist Children's Home, and Georgia counties in general, are in desperate need of foster families. The Children's Home is currently unable to place an average of twenty children a week who are referred to them by local DFCS office. Have you ever thought of being a foster parent yourself? This is the time to look further!

Many families who feel called to foster are not aware that they have a choice to foster through a faith-based agency, such as the United Methodist Children's Home. The Children's Home has been offering family foster care and adoption for children since 1972. The Foster Care Department of the Children's Home is licensed to provide care for children of all ages, including medically fragile children. Their greatest need is for families willing and able to care for siblings groups of two or more, teenagers, and medically fragile children. The majority of referrals received by the Children's Home are for siblings. Often times, the agency does not have a home able to care for the number of siblings referred. The approval of additional homes will allow a greater opportunity for matching the children to the right family.

Once approved, a foster family becomes part of a team working toward permanency for the children served. The permanency plan may mean the children returning to live with their parents or other family member, sometimes in a few days or a number of months, or it may mean adoption. The UMCH, as a licensed adoption agency, is able to see the family through the adoption process as well.

If you or someone you know is being called to open your heart and home to these children in need, or if you just want to learn more about what is involved in becoming a Foster Parent we look forward to meeting you and sharing information with you during our weekend at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Sincerely,

Denise Peacock, Foster Care Information Specialist, at 404-327-5864 or at dpeacock@umchildrenshome.org.

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2013

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Theresa S. Bowen, DRE



Thoughtful Moments

Fr. Damien of Molokai

The Year of Faith saint for May is Fr. Damien of Molokai. Fr. Damien was a priest who cared for lepers (those with Hansen's disease) on the island of Molokai. When he found out that they lived without basics like decent housing or clean water, Fr.

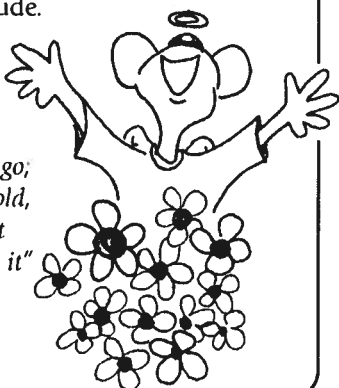


Damien built schools, churches, hospitals and sanitation facilities. He was their leader and their priest. He gave them dignity and hope. Fr. Damien also contracted leprosy but served until his death in 1889.

Attitude matters

Do you want to make a quick improvement in your family life? Change the way you talk about it. For example, "I have to pick up the kids," implies obligation and drudgery. "I get to spend time with the children when driving them home" implies opportunity. It's all about attitude.

"Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



Batman or St. Sebastian? Role models for children

Children learn by imitation, which makes it wise for parents to be aware of the role models our children choose. Today's choices can be actors, rock stars, or athletes who may not have the most admirable qualities. It is important to offer a variety of role models to help shape how children behave in school, with friends, or at home.

Choose for inspiration. Children see in heroes what they want to see in themselves, namely the ability to overcome weaknesses, fear or insecurity, and to be brave, courageous and kind. Parents can help youngsters identify inspiring role models from history, literature, family, or our faith who can offer examples of virtue and strength.



Who were your heroes? Talk about who you looked up to growing up. Was it St. Maximilian Kolbe, Michael Jordan or Anne Frank? Sharing your childhood heroes gives you a chance to discuss how to choose role models.

Draw comparisons. When your child does something kind or generous - "You were giving like St. Nicholas." Or, when she tells a difficult truth - "You were honest like Abraham Lincoln."

Encourage analysis. If you aren't crazy about your child's choice of hero, remind him that everyone has good and bad qualities. Ask what he thinks of the role model's bad behavior and give examples of more positive ways to behave.

Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics go to Confession?

The Church calls Confession (The Sacrament of Reconciliation) a sacrament of healing. Sin wounds our relationship with God and with each other. Jesus came to save us from sin. So that the forgiveness of sins would continue, Jesus instituted the



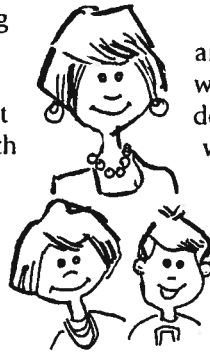
Sacrament of Reconciliation, saying, *"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained"* (John 20:20).

Through this sacrament, our sins, no matter how big, are washed away and we are reconciled with God and the Church.

Become a deliberate parent

Parenting can feel like a job or a joy, depending upon our approach. Try these tips to be a deliberate and joyful parent.

Strengthen your own faith. Parents can act out of fear or faith. Having a child can put us in touch with mystery, awe, and an awareness of our own weakness, which can trigger fear. Fear can be a strong emotion, so faith needs to be stronger. Rely on daily prayer, frequent reception of the Sacraments, and regular attendance at Mass.



Keep only good company. We may have friends who are fun but not especially faithful or moral. Find people whose attitudes and life choices support yours. If you don't live what you believe, you will eventually believe what you live ... and so will your children.

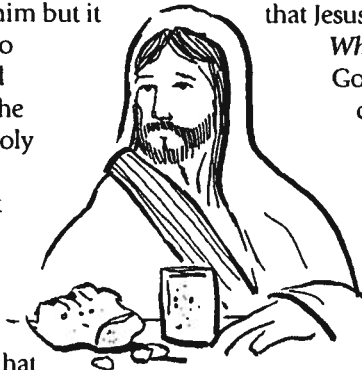
Commit to a virtue. Choose a virtue or characteristic that will guide your family. For example, if you choose respect as the family virtue, all that you do and say will be guided by respect for God, for others, and for self.

Scripture LESSON

John 16:12-15, the coming of the Holy Spirit

In St. John's account of the Last Supper, Jesus prepared the Apostles for what was going to happen to him but it was too much for them to grasp at the time. He told them not to worry, that the Father would send the Holy Spirit to guide them.

The Apostles knew that the Father is the originator of creation and that Jesus is God's Son. Jesus said that he is the Word of God and that he will be the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of each of us. They were still struggling with what that



meant. It wasn't until the Holy Spirit came to them that they understood all that Jesus told them.

What can a parent do? This Gospel gives parents the chance to talk about Trinity – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Children can learn that the Father created everything, including them, out of love. Jesus came into the world to show how much God loves us. The

Holy Spirit was sent to help us live lives of caring and love for all creation.

Parent TALK

Tessa wanted to dress like her friend, Brianna, in tight-fitting, low-cut blouses, low-rise jeans, or skirts that skim her bottom. I said "no."

Then, when we were rushing to an award ceremony for Tessa's sister, Tessa slipped into the car dressed that way. I had to allow it or we would miss the ceremony.

The next day when they came home from school, I greeted the girls in a low-cut top, skimpy skirt, and high heels. Tessa was horrified. She said she hoped I didn't go anywhere looking like that. In fact, I was dressed like Brianna.

I pointed out that she wasn't looking at my face but at my body. She wasn't listening to what I said but was focused on my clothes. She wasn't noticing me, she was noticing my outfit. And that's what would happen every time she went out dressed like this. She got the point.



Feasts & Celebrations

In May we honor Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. On May 31st, we commemorate the Visitation when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth to share her joy at being favored by God.

May 15 – St. Isidore (1170). Born in Madrid to a poor farming family, Isidore married St. Mary de la Cabeza and worked for a wealthy landowner. He spent many hours in prayer and was devoted to the care of the sick and poor.

May 21 – St. Christopher Magallanes (1937). Fr. Christopher Magallanes was part of the Catholic Action Movement in Mexico that fought the anti-Catholic

Mexican government. Despite great persecution, he established a seminary at Totatiche. He was eventually martyred along with twenty-one other priests and three laymen.

May 25 – St. Mary Magdalen de'Pazzi (1607). Born to a distinguished Florentine family, Catherine de' Pazzi was expected to be a woman of high society. Instead, she became a Carmelite. After professing vows, she experienced ecstasies that were recorded in three large volumes.



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