

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2009



Thoughtful Moments

Repent and repair

If a child does something wrong, she needs to make amends. This means to ask forgiveness of the person hurt, repair the damage, and make things right with God through Confession. When wronged, she must forgive and move on.



May is special

In May we honor Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. We also commemorate the Visitation when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth to share her joy at being favored by God. Three ways to grow closer to Mary include praying to her, honoring her feast days, and praising her to others.

Our Catholic beginnings

The Roman Catholic Church teaches us the very same doctrine that Jesus taught. In fact, the Catholic Church itself was established by Jesus. 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.



Someone is watching you

Children who are good sports or behave politely to others usually have parents who do more than just say, "be nice." Their parents probably listen without interrupting, win or lose graciously, tell the truth, and generally model good behavior for their children. Even more powerful than our words of wisdom is the example we set.

Model truth. There is no such thing as a "white lie." If you are occasionally dishonest, don't be surprised if your children are, too. If you are honest and faithful, your children will respect you and want to be like you. Even young children know the difference.

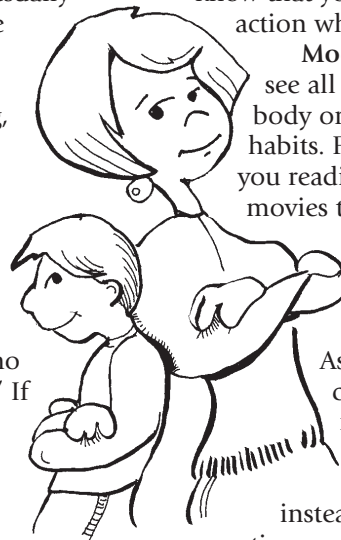
Model justice. Don't look the other way when you witness something that

offends your values. Let your children know that you disapprove and take action when you can.

Model purity. Your children see all that you put into your body or mind. Show them healthy habits. For example, let them catch you reading books or watching movies that strengthen your faith rather than those with nudity, profanity, or immoral behavior.

Model consideration. Ask questions and initiate conversations that will increase communication between you. Trying to occasionally listen instead of lecture will model patience and respect.

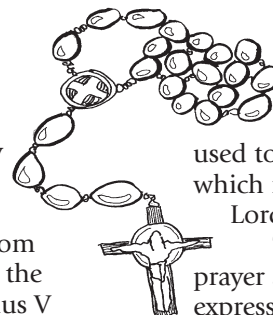
Model forgiveness. Ask and offer forgiveness freely. Saying "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you" tells children that pride shouldn't interfere with doing what's right.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

What is the origin of the Rosary?

Historians think the Rosary developed slowly from the 1100s to 1569, during a time when Catholics were cut off from any real participation in the liturgy. In 1569, Pope Pius V brought the Rosary to its current



form and recommended it be used to meditate on the "mysteries which recall the entire life of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Rosary is a powerful prayer and a wonderful way to express love for our Lord and his mother.

Easy ways to show your love

Children learn about God's warm love by experiencing love from their parents. Try these ideas for showing love to your children every day:

Create a secret word, handshake, or other gesture of affection that is known only to you and your children. Use it in public.

Wipe the slate clean at night and start fresh the next day. Every day is a new opportunity to try again.

Bend the rules occasionally. Let children jump in

puddles or roll in the mud you usually tell them to avoid.

Display photos around the house of your family having fun and enjoying being together.

Pull out the baby books and retell the wonderful story of how each person came to be part of your family.

Sing a family love song. Make one up or copy the lyrics to your favorite. Print the lyrics on nice paper and frame it on the wall where everyone can see it.

Plant something in your yard for each loved one. Nurture them and watch them grow.



Scripture LESSON

John 17:11-19, Jesus' prayer for us

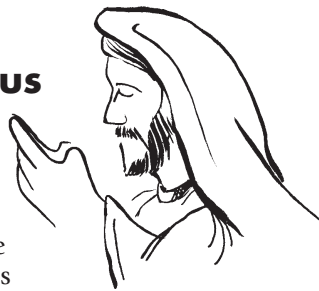
When Jesus was on Earth, he cared for and protected his disciples. In this reading, Jesus was preparing for his departure from the Earth and prayed to God to protect his disciples and watch over them (and us).

The close and loving relationship between Jesus and the Father was a source of great joy to Jesus, and he wants us to share that joy. The key is to live in a close and loving relationship with God that includes prayer and Scripture. Praying and reading Scripture daily helps us get to know God better, keeps us aware of sin, and guides us back to the right

path.

Jesus also asked God to give his disciples special protection. To be a follower of Christ means to live without sin. Yet, the world doesn't want us to stand apart like that. Jesus asked the Father to strengthen us against the evil of the world.

What can a parent do? Never miss a chance to pray together, attend Sunday Mass, and do all that is necessary to keep children open to God's special protection.



Parent TALK

My older daughter wasn't happy. There were no big issues; just growing pains. Still, it was hard to see her struggling.

I decided she needed some "Love Medicine." I took an old pain reliever bottle and stuck a label on it that said "Love Medicine - take one as needed." Inside, I put round scraps of paper on which I wrote all treats: a back rub, lunch with mom, skipping one chore, extra hugs, etc.

The next day after school I administered some "Love Medicine." Her "prescription" was a batch of her favorite cookies so I immediately pulled out the baking pans. Her face lit up as she sat at the kitchen table watching me make cookies just for her.

The next day, I put in a few cookies in her lunch as an extra surprise. She came home with another smile on her face and said the treat picked up her whole day. Now I save the "Love Medicine" for when it is really needed, and it works every time.



Feasts & Celebrations

May 18 - Pope St. John I (526). Although Arian heresy was troubling the Church, the Arian king asked Pope John I to persuade Emperor Justin to stop persecuting them. The pope's efforts made the emperor suspect his loyalties. He had Pope John I imprisoned for conspiracy and the pope died from the treatment he received.

May 21 - Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Heaven after accomplishing his mission. Note: In many dioceses, observance of

Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 22 - St. Rita of Cascia (1457). Unwillingly married off to a cruel husband at the age of twelve, St. Rita spent eighteen unhappy years before being widowed. She became an Augustinian nun and was known for her devotion to prayer and charity.

May 25 - St. Bede the Venerable (735). Honored as a saint during his lifetime, he was an extraordinary scholar and writer. He composed 45 books, including 30 commentaries on books of the Bible.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children.

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