

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

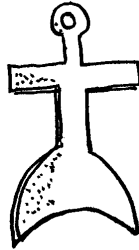
October 2010



## Thoughtful Moments

### Parish participation

Jesus designed the Church to be a community of believers who make each other strong. Anchor your family life around the life of the Church. Make a point of taking your children to First Friday observances, celebrate feast days, and attend May crownings. These are wonderful expressions of our Catholic spirituality.

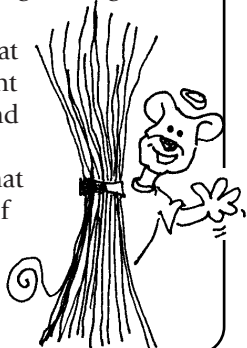


### A noble purpose

Each of us was created wonderfully by God to serve him and others in this life and live in eternal happiness with him in the next. Remind children regularly that God made them with deliberation and help them discover the nature of their own noble purpose in God's kingdom.

### Family photos

Displaying religious artwork in each room of your home communicates two important messages. Religious images serve as steady witnesses that faith is an important part of your life. And it reminds all who enter your home that you are members of the large and loving family of God.



## Give the gift of God's friendship

God is eager for us to get to know him. He knows that once we discover how wonderful he is we will want to stay close and be with him always. And isn't God's eternal friendship what we want for our children? Give youngsters the gift of God's friendship.

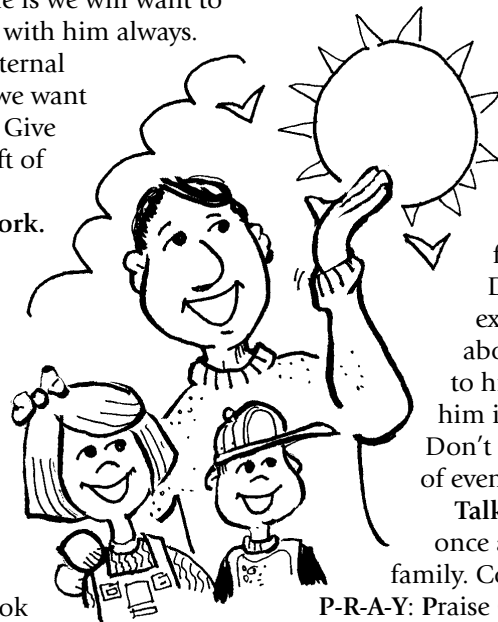
**Examine his work.** We learn about God through his creations. Examining what he has made teaches us that God is great, good, and loving. Talk a walk, watch a nature movie, or read a science book and talk about what his creations reveal about God.

**Meet his Mother.** Jesus loved his mother so much that his last thoughts

on the Cross were of her. Teach children to pray the Rosary and to observe some of the devotions to her. Embrace Mary as our mother, too.

**Visit his house.** Celebrating the Sacraments strengthens our friendship with God. During Mass, for example, we learn more about him by listening to his Word and meeting him in the Eucharist. Don't deprive your children of even one Sunday Mass.

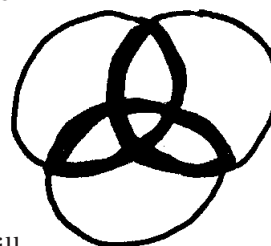
**Talk with him.** At least once a day, pray as a family. Consider the format P-R-A-Y: Praise God for his goodness, Repent of the times you failed to love God or each other, Ask for the things you need, Yield and listen for God's voice.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## What is the Holy Trinity?

The Holy Trinity is one of the great mysteries of Christianity. The Trinity is one God but three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each Person is God but there is only one divine intellect and one divine will



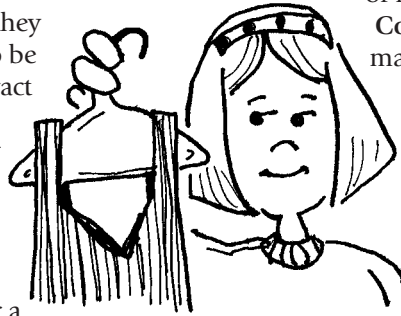
which all three persons share equally.

Jesus revealed the truth of the Trinity. Belief in the Trinity requires faith – a gift given at Baptism. "The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 232)

## Clothing guidelines for Catholic kids

Fashions worn by friends or favorite celebrities often feel right to young people even if they are too tight and show too much skin to be considered modest. Such styles can distract people from a child's personality, accomplishments, and faith. Instead, try these tips to help children dress modestly and fashionably, too.

**Think "layers."** Does your child love low-cut styles or bottoms that show underwear? Try pairing a tank top under a top with a plunging neckline or a wear a pair



of running shorts under sagging bottoms.

**Color me funky.** The season's hottest colors can make even modest clothing seem fashionable. When you find modest styles, choose the brightest or most popular colors.

**Test the light.** If you think a fabric may be too transparent, place a layer over a newspaper. If you can see the letters through it, the fabric is too sheer.

**Fit right.** If your child loves something that you think is too tight, look for the next size or ask if the store offers alterations.

### Scripture LESSON

#### Luke 19:1-10. Zacchaeus makes a special friend.

Zacchaeus was not a popular man. As the chief tax collector in Jericho, he probably took more than his share and became wealthy amidst other people's misery.

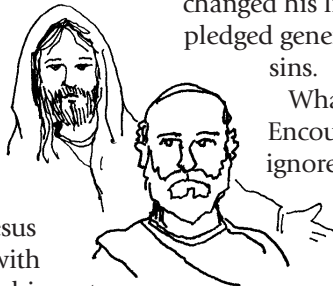
Imagine the crowd's reaction when Jesus spotted Zacchaeus in a tree and invited himself to dinner at Zacchaeus' home. People were stunned that Jesus would choose to associate with someone they excluded. For his part, Zacchaeus shot down from the tree and fell all over himself to make Jesus welcome.

It didn't bother Jesus that Zacchaeus was unpopular or sinful. He often

befriended the most unlikely people. As it turned out, Zacchaeus was so eager for Jesus' friendship that he changed his life as a result and pledged generous amends for past sins.

What can a parent do? Encourage your children to ignore gossip and nasty comments made about peers. If they have questions about the suitability of a friend,

tell them to come to you instead. Teach youngsters to respect everyone, even those who are excluded by others. Jesus was tolerant and quick to forgive. We need to do the same.



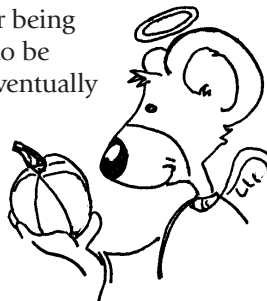
### Feasts & Celebrations

The Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7, and dedicates this month to honoring this beautiful prayer form. Traditional observances include going to Confession, meditating for 15 minutes on one of the mysteries, and the recitation of the Rosary.

**Oct. 19 – Saint John de Brébeuf and Saint Isaac Jogues and their companions (1652).** Six Jesuits and two laymen became missionaries to Native American tribes in North America. Unwelcome and distrusted, they spent more than 20 years in a

difficult ministry. St. John de Brébeuf won the Iroquois' respect by his valor in death. St. Isaac Jogues escaped only to return to his ministry but was also murdered.

**Oct. 28 – Saint Simon and Saint Jude (1st century).** St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they eventually ended up in Persia where they evangelized until they were martyred.



### Parent TALK

My grandmother came from a large family and was sure that at least some of her relatives were "suffering in

Purgatory." She prayed the Rosary three times a day in their honor. She also had a special way of observing All Souls Day. Nana Tessie

would take me and my two brothers to the cemetery next to her church to decorate the graves of family members. Gravesites of anyone to whom we were remotely related were spiffed and honored. Under her supervision, my brothers and I spent the day sweeping and sprucing. Each time we finished a grave, we prayed a decade of the Rosary for the soul buried there.

My children never knew Nana Tessie, but we continue the tradition she began. Last year we were joined by my two brothers and their families. They day turned into a joyful celebration of family that Nana would have loved.

**Our Mission**  
To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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