

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

September 2010



Thoughtful Moments

God's greatest gift

"A child is God's greatest gift to the family, to the nation, to the world. The child is a life from God, created in the image of God, created for great things, to love and to be loved." Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

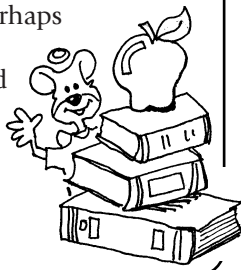
Speak up

Schools are reporting a rise in the incidence of bullying among students. Anti-bullying programs are not just working to stop bullies from preying on other children. Teaching children to speak up when they see another child being hurt or harassed is just as important. "Open your mouth, decree what is just, defend the needy and the poor!" (Proverbs 31:9).



Tradition benefits

Studies have concluded that members of families that practice traditions feel more connected, more unified, and more valued. Meaningful traditions – especially those that center on faith – make a family stronger. Perhaps learning of traditions practiced in other families will spark ideas for family traditions you can adopt, too.



Lower the stress of the new school year

A new school year doesn't have to bring a rise in family stress. In fact, just a few positive changes as the year begins can make life easier and draw you closer together. For example:

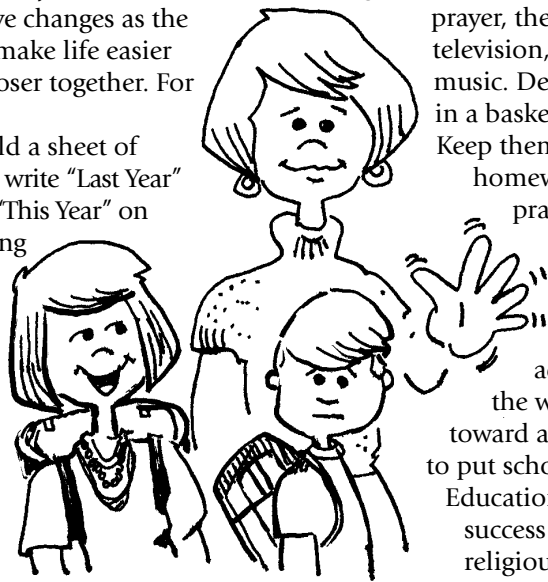
Start fresh. Fold a sheet of paper in half and write "Last Year" on one side and "This Year" on the other. Working together, list problems encountered in the prior school year under the heading, "Last Year." Were important papers often misplaced? Was homework finished only after much reminding? In the "This Year" column, write down the changes everyone can make to help and collaborate to make it happen.

Create a quiet zone. Set aside specific

hours and an area in your home for doing homework. Start with family prayer, then turn off the television, computers, and music. Deposit cell phones in a basket on the counter. Keep them off during homework time. End by praying a Rosary decade together.

Make school tops. Too many activities can stress the whole family. Work toward a balance, but try to put school first. Education is crucial for success in this world and religious education leads to success in the next. Both should have priority.

Set a new tone. A parent's enthusiasm is contagious. If you have a positive attitude about school and homework, so will your child.

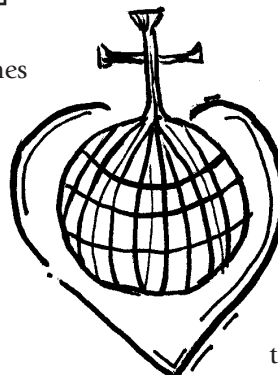


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why is our Church called "Catholic"?

The word "catholic" comes from the Greek, "katholikos." It means "throughout the whole" or "universal."

The first record of the Church being called "Catholic" quotes a first-century letter St. Ignatius wrote to the Smyrnaeans,

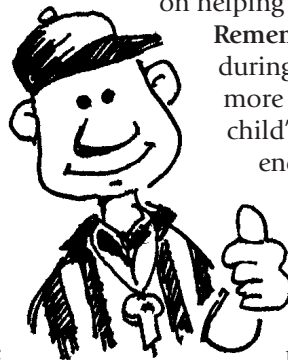


"Where the bishop appears, there let the people be, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church." St. Cyril of Jerusalem (347) wrote, "Now it [the Church] is called Catholic because it is throughout the world, from one end of the earth to the other."

Good sports – big and small

Children learn the basics of sportsmanship from adults, especially parents and coaches. By learning to develop good sportsmanship, children also learn that success in sports comes to those who know how to persevere and respect others – win or lose.

Focus on lessons learned. Winning is just one lesson learned from playing sports. Youngsters also learn to take pride in their efforts, their improving skills, and in their accomplishments, even if the ending score doesn't favor them. Encourage young athletes to play fair, to have fun, and to concentrate



on helping the team while improving their own skills.

Remember, you are the parent. How you behave during practices and games will teach your children more than what you say. Unless you are coaching your child's team, stay on the sidelines. Shout only encouragement – not directions or criticism – to the players. Praise sincere effort and congratulate winners, even if they're on the other team.

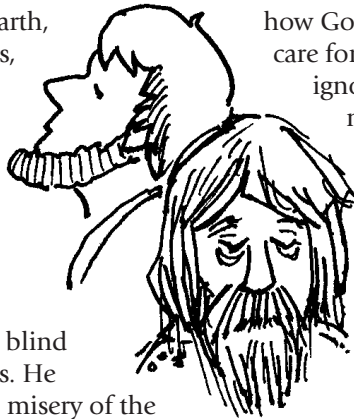
Stay positive. Express only support for coaches, officials, or other players. Any concern you have should be addressed privately.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 16:19-31, Learn God's language of love

This is the story of a rich man who enjoys his life on earth, and a beggar who suffers, ignored, outside his door. In the afterlife, it is the rich man who suffers torment and begs for relief.

The rich man was condemned for two reasons. The first was because he had become blind to the suffering of others. He deliberately ignored the misery of the poor man right outside his door. He had the resources to bring a change in the man's situation but did nothing. The second is because the rich man



knew what Scripture said about how God expects his followers to care for each other, but he ignored it. Living our faith means transforming prayer into deeds of love.

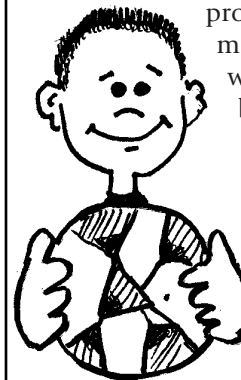
What can a parent do?

The key to learning God's language of love and how he wants us to speak it can be found in the Bible. Put your family Bible in a conspicuous spot in your home, one that will remind

you to read it together each day. Then talk about putting what you learn into action.

Parent TALK

When my son was invited to a professional soccer match by a friend, he was thrilled. He had been playing soccer for a few years and was excited to see how the professionals play it.



Before he left, I reminded him of the behavior I expected from him.

I stressed the importance of saying, "thank you," and I urged him to be polite and use his manners.

Michael came home beaming. It had been a great game and his team had won. Later, he told me that only one thing had marred the experience for him. He said that a man who was sitting in front of him yelled insults at the opposing team through the entire game and even used bad language. Michael was shocked to see an adult behave that way and remembered my lecture about manners. He said someone should have reminded the man to use his manners.

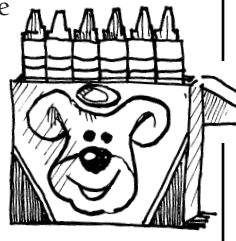
Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 14 – Feast: Exaltation of the Holy Cross (300s). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine), travelled to Jerusalem to retrace 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. 17 – St. Robert Bellarmine (1621). A Jesuit, St. Robert was dedicated to accurately recording Church doctrine to protect it from attack by Protestants. Among many

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

Sept. 20 – St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and companions (1839 to 1867). At this time in Korea, almost all contact with the outside world was forbidden, making it difficult and dangerous to spread the Gospel. Andrew and Paul, 98 Koreans and three French missionaries refused to renounce their faith or stop evangelizing and were martyred between 1839 and 1867.



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