

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2019

St. Martin de Porres

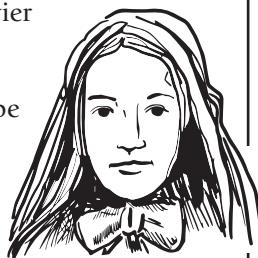
Christian Formation Department



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

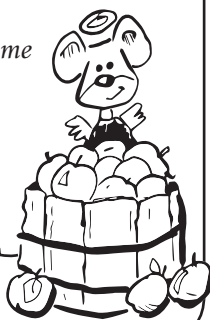
St. Frances Xavier was born in Lombardy, Italy, and grew up to be a strong, determined religious sister. Rejected by two religious orders for poor health, she founded her own order, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Though afraid of the sea, she frequently sailed between Italy and the Americas to bring over new sisters. They cared for the often-forgotten immigrants in the New World. Mother Cabrini is the first U.S. citizen to be canonized.



### Judge not

Help children to remember that criticizing others is a serious business. *"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven"* (Luke 6:37). Better to worry about our own behavior and let others do the same.

*"Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"* (Luke 18:16).



## What makes a Catholic home special?

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

### Dedication to prayer.

Teach children to pray often using the basic elements of prayer with 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.

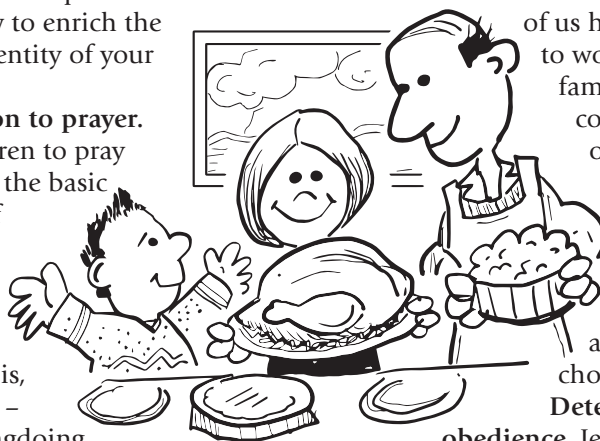
### Commitment to work.

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.

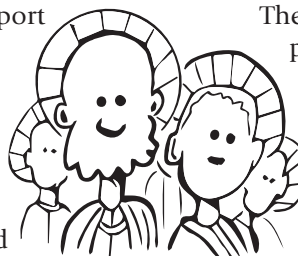


## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics have patron saints?

Patrons financially support others and look out for their interests.

Patron saints do this for us spiritually by their prayers. A person being baptized often receives a saint's name and is placed under his or her patronage.



They are also "in charge of" praying for certain things:

health, safety, and even whole countries! The saints, who prayed for the Church while still on earth, continue praying for us in heaven. We can ask for their prayers as from good friends.

## The saints can lead us to virtue

The Church recommends four virtues that will help us get to Heaven. Saints are people whose examples can help us acquire these important virtues.

**Temperance** – This virtue teaches moderation and self-discipline. St. Therese of Lisieux was indulged as a child, but through temperance, gave up her selfish ways. She is known for her little acts of great love.

**Justice** – Justice encourages us to respect others' rights. St. Peter Claver used to meet the ships docking in Colombia full of people to be sold as slaves. He gave them food

and medicine and shared God's love. He baptized almost 300,000 slaves.

**Fortitude** – This virtue helps us do what is right despite difficult circumstances. St. Gianna Beretta Molla was a pediatrician and mother. She became ill while pregnant but refused to end her unborn child's life, even though it meant her certain death.

**Prudence** – St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, used reason to make the right choices. He determined how best to protect his family, and was a faithful husband and father.

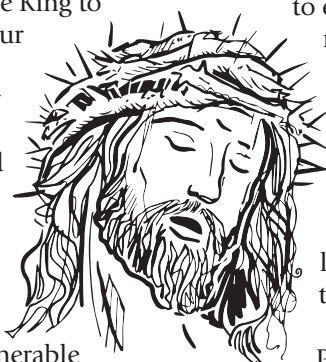


## Scripture LESSON

### Luke 23:35-43, Christ the King

In 1925, Pope Pius XI, established the solemnity of Christ the King to remind the Church that our ultimate allegiance is to Jesus, the true King of our hearts and minds. All earthly kingdoms rise and fall, but Jesus is the only king whose reign lasts forever.

This Gospel reading seems to show Jesus at his weakest and most vulnerable and takes place moments before his death on the Cross, mocked by the crowds. Yet this is when Jesus is actually at his strongest. On the Cross, he shouldered the sins of the entire



human race, restoring God's grace to each one of us then and now. No king could do that except Jesus.

At that moment on Calvary, Jesus opened the gates of heaven to us, beginning with the "Good Thief," who led a life of sin but recognized the true King.

**What can a parent do?**

Place a crucifix in a prominent place in your home to remind your family of the great strength that came from the Cross. Make Jesus the true King of your hearts.

## Parent TALK

Kara came home crying one day. Her friend told her that Halloween was a pagan holiday and Catholics

shouldn't celebrate it. She was

crushed. She had a

beautiful

Juliet costume

she was looking

forward to wearing. Going

from house to house, trick or treating, was something our family enjoyed each year.

I knew that, in fact, the Halloween we celebrate has roots in Catholicism. All Hallows' Eve was the time when villages prepared for the Feast of All Saints on November 1. People went from house to house soliciting contributions to the communal feast the next day. After a while, those who didn't participate were subjected to a prank or trick in retaliation.

Still, I thought it would be fun to convert Halloween to something a bit more Catholic. We took the Juliet costume and changed the headpiece. We now had a St. Monica costume and it worked for everyone.



## Feasts & Celebrations

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

**Nov. 3 – St. Martin de Porres (1639).** A saint and mystic, St. Martin joined the Dominicans in 1594, when people of African and Indian descent were barred from joining religious orders. Despite this, he founded an orphanage and cared for the poor and sick, regardless of race or rank.

**Nov. 4 – St. Charles Borromeo (1584).** After earning doctorates in

civil and canon law, Charles was made a cardinal and Bishop of Milan by Pope Pius IV. He led by example to reform his diocese and tirelessly worked for poor and sick in his care.

**Nov. 21 – Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1st Century).**

As an infant, Mary was offered to God in the temple, according to the Jewish custom of her day. During the ceremony,

Mary's soul was adorned with graces.



## Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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