

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2020

St. Martin de Porres  
Christian Formation Department



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Francis Caracciolo

Originally named Ascanio, Francis was born in the Abruzzi region of Italy to a noble Neopolitan family. Even as a child, he was noted for his gentleness and virtue. He often slipped away to visit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and shared his food with the poor. This kindness and holiness marked the rest of his life. At twenty-two, he became a priest. He befriended the nobleman, Adorno, with whom he co-founded the Minor Clerks Regular.

### A good friend

Friendship skills aren't natural to everyone. One has to be a friend to attract friends. Some examples include: staying in touch by phone, smiling and waving "hello," listening when a friend talks.

### Thou shall not kill

One way to model the Fifth Commandment - "You shall not kill" - is to avoid watching television shows or movies about murder and to refuse to allow violent video games.



## Make the most of family time

The pandemic has brought us more time together as a family than we ever imagined. With parts of the country slowly reopening, families can still make the most of this time together over the summer. Here are some ideas:

**Rosaries for Troops.** Men and women in harm's way appreciate handmade Rosaries that meet special criteria for those serving in hostile areas. Consider making this a family project. This website can show you how: <http://www.seatofwisdom.net/rosary.htm>.

**Get away at home.** Sick of being at home? Take a virtual trip each day for a week to a place you have always wanted to visit. On Italy day, for example, play

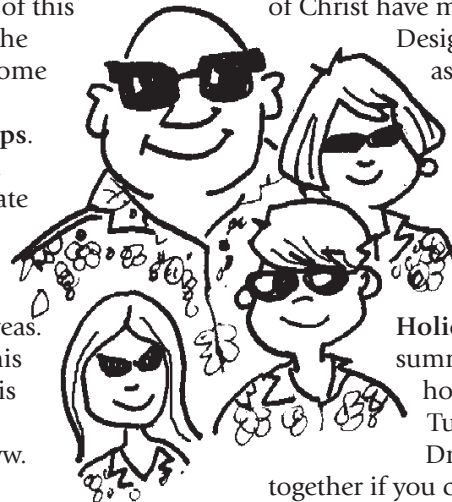
a game of soccer, listen to Italian arias, dance the tarantella, eat pasta and sauce.

**Joyful Noise Night.** Children of Christ have much to celebrate.

Designate one night a week as Joyful Noise Night and ask each person to bring to the table one joke, cartoon, comic or funny story. Outlaw glum faces for the entire evening.

**Every Sunday Holiday.** Make every summer Sunday a family holiday. Prohibit chores. Turn off personal devices. Dress up and stream Mass together if you can't get to church. Make an act of spiritual communion.

**Spread joy and hope** by creating driveway or sidewalk art with a hopeful Biblical message or create your own sacred art.

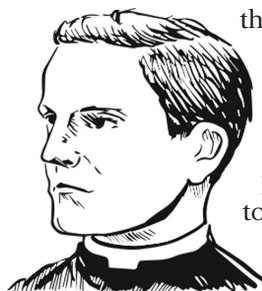


## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics need their priests?

At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Eucharist, offering himself under the veils of bread and wine (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #1374*), to the Father and then giving himself to us.

To ensure the sacrifice of

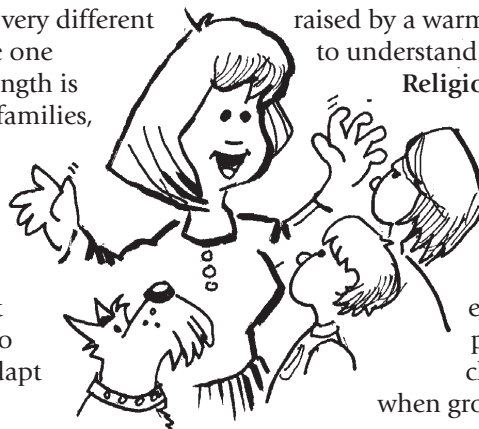


the Mass would be offered until his return, Jesus ordained his Apostles as the first bishops. As well as saying Mass and ministering sacraments, the priest is to be a spiritual father to the souls in his care, teaching, consoling, and praying for them.

## Parents and faith matter more than ever

When the world around us looks so very different from what we have come to know, the one constant on which we can rely for strength is our faith. In close and loving faithful families, parents pass on their faith to their children so that it's available when needed. Building trust and showing love are important first steps.

Close parent-child bonds make the difference. Researchers found that when a child feels emotionally close to a parent, he or she is more likely to adapt the parent's religious practices. When



raised by a warm and affirming parent, it is easier for a child to understand and relate to a warm and loving God.

### Religious parents model what they preach.

Children are motivated to follow in their parents' religious footsteps when the parents practice what they preach. That kind of authenticity is compelling.

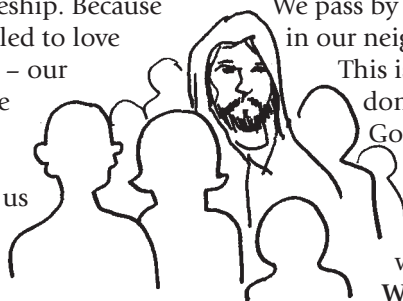
Surrounding children with a loving faith community, teaching faith practices, encouraging service, and being a consistent presence were noted as convincing to children who adopted their parents' faith when grown.

## Scripture LESSON

### Matthew 10:37-42, "Whoever receives you receives me"

In this passage, Jesus outlines the challenges of discipleship. Because he is God, we are called to love him above all things – our families included. He calls us to take up our crosses and to follow him. He calls us to spend our lives, not seeking our own comfort and security, but in loving service to others, firstly to God. We do all of these by God's grace, not our own strength.

Jesus identifies closely with his disciples. At Baptism, God came to dwell in our souls. Our mission is to



make Christ's love for others visible.

We pass by Jesus every day, present in our neighbors, however hidden.

This is why every kindness done to our neighbors, God counts as done to him personally. He will reward us even if it's just a cup of cold water.

### What can a parent do?

Encourage your child to do something unselfish for someone else today. Tell her that even if no one else notices, God will, and he will reward her here, if not in Heaven. And that's what truly matters.

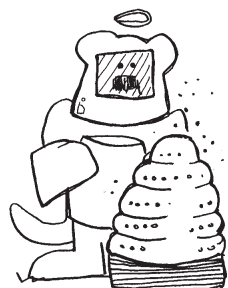
## Feasts & Celebrations

**June 7 – The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity.** Today, we celebrate the Trinity – one of the great mysteries of our Faith. The Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ revealed this mystery before his Ascension into Heaven (Matthew 28:19).

**June 19 – St. Juliana Falconieri (1341).** Born in answer to a prayer by her devout parents, Juliana grew up to become the foundress and mother superior of the Servite Nuns. She was known for her charity, holiness, and wise counsel.

**June 20 – The Immaculate Heart of Mary.** In response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942, and initiated this feast in 1944.

**June 30 – First Martyrs of Rome (64).** Men, women, and children who were martyred under the Emperor Nero, who blamed the Christians for the disastrous fire of 62. A piazza in Rome is named in their honor.



## Parent TALK

As my children get older, my old discipline tools don't work as well as in the past. When they break rules or make bad choices, "go to your room" isn't enough.

So I bought a few Catholic reference books, a children's Catechism, Butler's Lives of the Saints and some drawing and writing materials. When the girls need "redirecting," I now assign short reports, projects, or essays depending upon the misdeed.

When Tessa "forgot" to put the money I gave her into the poor box, I assigned a three-paragraph report on St. Nicholas who gave away his money to the poor. When Kara missed turning in a couple of assignments, I had her illustrate a comic book about St. Catherine of Alexandria, who is said to have converted 50 pagan philosophers using her wisdom and knowledge.

Partnering with the saints to raise my children works so much better than giving time-outs.



### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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