

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2021

St. Anthony Religious Education



## Thoughtful Moments

### Do as I do

Are you the kind of Catholic you want your children to be? Setting a good example must include not only what you say, but what you do. For example, model respect and love for the Mass by attending every weekend. Frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation and rely on Scripture to help you hear the voice of God. Your children will want to do the same.

### The company we keep

When we see someone doing good, we are inspired to do good, too. The opposite is also true. Children whose consciences are still being formed can be easily led into sin by the bad examples of their friends. Be watchful about the company children keep and encourage friendships with those who do good.

*"Turn thou to me, and be gracious to me; for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distresses" (Psalm 25:16-17).*



## Make your home a safe place

Many of us feel helpless and anxious as the global pandemic drags on. Imagine how children feel, especially when they aren't able to fully understand current events or adequately express their anxiety and fears. Even young children can absorb tension and stress from conversations they overhear.

**Exercise patience.** Remember that children grappling with underlying stress may act out in new and different ways. Daily challenges that wouldn't normally rattle youngsters can be the trigger for bouts of anger or bad behavior. Try to remember the context in which children are operating and be

extra patient in reacting.

**Answer questions.** When they have questions, give them age-appropriate answers. Answer using simple statements and reassure them that God is watching out for each of His children.

**Limit news.** It's not possible to hide what is going on in the world, but children don't need a steady diet of news they may not be able to understand. No need to expose youngsters to reports that may only fuel their fears. Be sure to check their understanding of news they do hear or see.

**Make family time a priority.** To counter stress from the world, it helps to surround children with an atmosphere of love and comfort. Spend more time playing games, reading together, talking, and cuddling. Make your home their safe place.



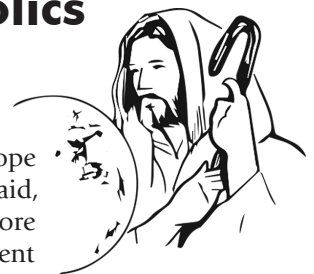
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

*"The earth is the Lord's and all it holds" (Psalm 24:1). The natural world is one way in which God reveals Himself to us. Therefore, we not only honor God for the gift of life but to honor His gift of creation.*

When we treat the natural world with respect, we preserve resources for future

## Why do Catholics respect creation?

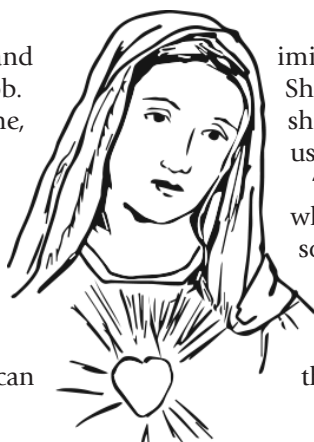
generations. Pope Benedict XVI said, "It becomes more and more evident that there is an inseparable link between peace with creation and peace among men."



## Parent like the Mother of God

God chose Mary to be the Mother of his Son, and gave her the preparation she needed to do the job. Jesus thought so highly of the mother she became, that his dying thoughts were of her. During this month for mothers, we can take parenting tips from the Mother of God:

*"May it be done to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38). When faced with events beyond her understanding or control, Mary leaned on God. We, too, encounter situations we can't understand or control. That's when we can



imitate Mary's trust in God. She didn't ask or argue. She just trusted. His plan worked out better than she could have dreamed. The same will be true for us.

*"Do whatever he tells you"* (John 2:5). Mary knew when her son was ready for his first public miracle so she gently nudged him when he hesitated.

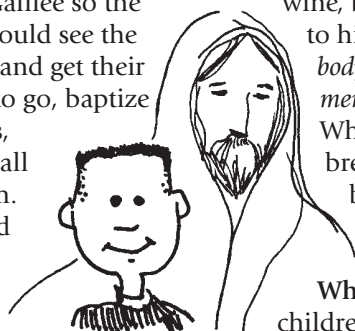
We, too, can show confidence in our children's competence and encourage them to reveal their strengths when they hesitate to believe in themselves.

### Scripture LESSON

**Matthew 28:16-20, "I will be with you always."**

Jesus appeared to the Apostles on the mountain-top in Galilee so the crowd with them could see the Resurrected Christ and get their final instructions: to go, baptize and make disciples, and to teach them all he had taught them. Jesus also promised his disciples, and us, that he will be with us always.

Because Jesus is God, he is present everywhere. However, we encounter him in a special way in the Sacraments, especially in Holy Communion. At



the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them and gave them to his disciples, saying *"This is my body...this is my blood ... Do this in memory of me"* (Luke 22:19-20). When the priest prays over the bread and wine at Mass, they become Jesus' Body and Blood. This is how Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always.

**What can a parent do?** Remind children that Jesus loves them and is with them everywhere, especially in the Sacraments. Tell them that in every Catholic church where the Eucharist is kept, Jesus is really present, waiting to spend time with them.

### Parent TALK

My eleven-year-old-daughter, Kara, has two best friends at school whom she has known since first grade. They were all on the same soccer team.



This year there was a new girl in their class. Harlow transferred from another school and didn't know anyone. I suggested that Kara invite her over when she and her friends got together on Saturday.

"But Mom, all she does is read history books," Kara complained. "I'll bet she doesn't even know how to play soccer!" I urged Kara to give her a chance. I asked her to think about how Harlow must feel having left all her other friends behind. Reluctantly, she agreed.

To her surprise, Harlow could play soccer but needed help improving her passing. The girls helped her and played the whole afternoon, alternating between soccer, videogames, and board games. They had a great time! When Harlow left, she promised to invite her new friends to her house next time.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker** (1st century). Entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, Joseph was a carpenter dedicated to his family and obedient to God.

**May 23 – Pentecost** (1st century). Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles, following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

**May 27 – St. Augustine of Canterbury** (604). Despite mistakes and failures, Augustine persevered as a missionary in rough and dangerous times in England. Wisely, he purified

and retained local customs into Christian rites. His efforts would eventually bear fruit in the conversion of England after his death.

**May 30 – St. Joan of Arc** (1431).

The patron saint of France, St. Joan was inspired by God in a vision to lead the French to victory during the Hundred Year's War against England. Her troops successfully freed Orléans from the English. She was captured, sold to the English, and falsely accused of sorcery. She was canonized in 1920.



### Our Mission

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