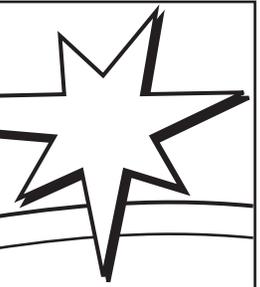


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

October 2014

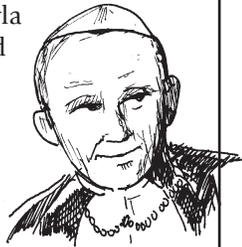
Sioux Falls Catholic Schools



Thoughtful Moments

St. John Paul II

Karol Jozef Wojtyla lost his parents and brother before turning 21. His studies paused when the Nazis closed the University in 1939, so Karol worked in a quarry and chemical factory but enrolled in an underground seminary. He was ordained in 1946, and earned degrees in philosophy and theology. In 1978, Karol became Pope John Paul II, serving for 27 years. He later suffered from Parkinson's but wrote 14 encyclicals, five books, canonized 482 saints, beatified 1,338 people and visited 124 countries.



Eucharistic thanksgiving

"Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." Before you attend Mass, gather to write down the gifts God has given each of you over the last week. After Communion, read them out loud in prayerful thanks. Gratitude is one of the keys to happiness.

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; for they are a fair garland for your head, and pendants for your neck" (Proverbs 1:8-9).



What will keep children Catholic?

Mary and Joseph were devout and practicing Jews. They raised their son to be a devout and practicing Jew because they wanted to pass on the faith they loved. As Catholic parents, we rely on our faith and also want our children to stay Catholic when they are grown. Taking these steps when they are young will help:

Model the life. Live the way you want your children to live. Give them an example of a faithful Catholic life.

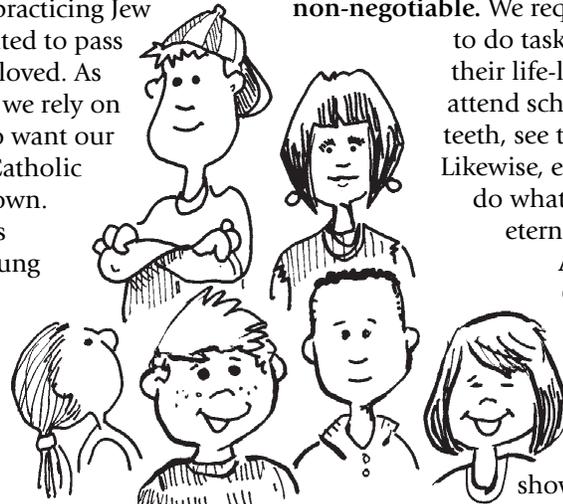
Teach the truth. No matter what society wants us to think, truth is not relative. Children need to know what is true and that it is the same for everyone. Keep handy a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC)

for easy reference of Church teaching.

Make Sunday Mass attendance non-negotiable. We require children to do tasks important for their life-long health – attend school, brush their teeth, see the doctor. Likewise, ensure that they do what will gain them eternal life.

Act with love. Children first learn about love from their families.

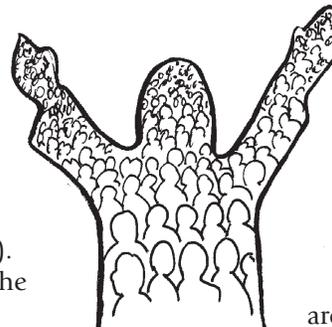
When you show children love, they can believe God loves them, too. Avoid criticism and harsh words. Fairness, encouragement, kindness, forgiveness freely given all convey love. Being part of a loving family helps youngsters understand their place in the Family of God – the Church.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do we call the Church the mystical Body of Christ?

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). "The Church is called the (mystical) Body of



Christ because of the intimate communion which Jesus shares with his disciples" (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

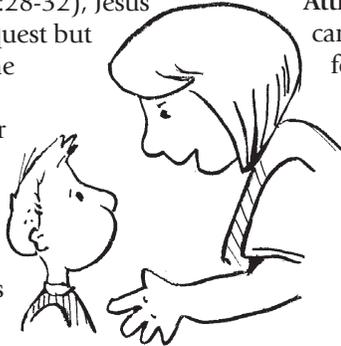
Christ is the head of the Body leading the baptized.

It is through the Church we are spiritually nourished.

Teach children to act with honor

In the parable of two sons (Matthew 21:28-32), Jesus tells of one son who refused a father's request but later obeyed, and another son who said he would obey but didn't. Neither son acted honorably toward his father. We want our children to do better.

Establish a code of honor. Acting with honor means sticking to a set of moral principles. Using the Beatitudes and the Commandments, decide on your family's code of honor.



Attitude is key. The importance of a respectful attitude can't be overstated. Discourage eye rolling, grumbling, or foot stomping. Encourage communication instead. "Dad, I'm tired from practice and would like to put off raking leaves for an hour. Is that okay?" Then be sure he follows through. That's acting honorably.

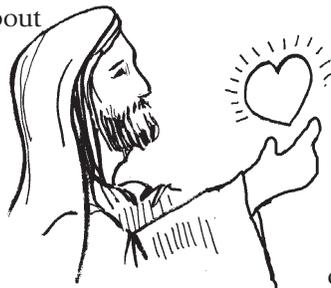
Add something extra. Teach children to go beyond what is asked. Meeting minimum standards is expected. Going beyond is acting with honor. "Please set the table as usual tonight. Then do something special to surprise me."

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40. Can't argue with love.

There are more than 600 commands in the Jewish law. The lawyer who debated Jesus was toying with him when he asked for Jesus' opinion about which law was the most important. Jews had been debating that question for generations without coming to agreement. Egged on by the Pharisees, the lawyer hoped to get Jesus to say something against Jewish law so he could be discredited or even arrested.

Jesus silenced them all by saying that everything starts and ends with love - love of God and love of neighbor.



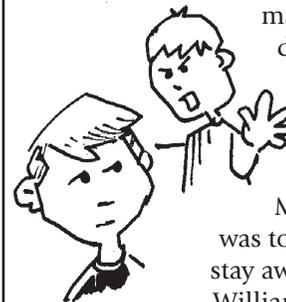
Even the Pharisees couldn't argue with that.

The Ten Commandments can be divided into two categories: those recommending respect for God (the first four) and those detailing responsibilities toward neighbors (the last six). In the end, it all comes down to love.

What can a parent do? Talk with children about how easy it is to love people who are nice to us but loving everyone, even if they're not nice, is what God really wants us to do.

Parent TALK

I got a phone call recently from Austin's teacher to discuss his friendship with a classmate, William. She was concerned about the influence William had on my son. Together they



made bad decisions and Austin was getting into trouble as a result.

My first instinct was to tell Austin to stay away from William, but would

that have helped him learn to use his Christian values in the future and live his faith? I know that he will come into contact with many temptations in his life. With the help of the Holy Spirit, he can learn to live a moral life. So I told Austin that when a friend makes a bad choice, don't join in - walk away. He doesn't have to avoid that friend forever - just for that moment.

Austin understood and tried it the next day. So far both boys are staying out of trouble.

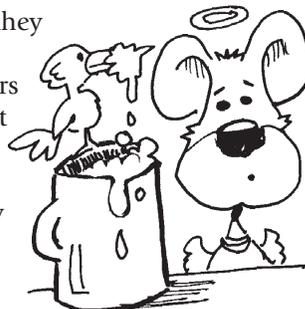
Feasts & Celebrations

Oct. 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). Pope Pius V created this feast in thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory who helped the Christians defeat the Ottoman Turks. Since it was believed that they won after praying the Rosary, the feast was renamed Our Lady of the Rosary by Pope Gregory XIII. Pray a Rosary to celebrate.

October 17 - St. Ignatius of Antioch (1st century). Successor to St. Peter as the second bishop of Antioch, St. Ignatius encouraged obedience to bishops all over the world saying, "Wherever the bishop

is, there let the people be, for there is the Catholic Church." He reminded people that Jesus is present in the Church and in one another.

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 and were martyred by the people they served.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

© Copyright 2014 Success Publishing & Media, LLC