

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

October 2007

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Thoughtful Moments

Help is coming

The Holy Spirit can offer help in the most unexpected of ways. If we pay attention, any moment, any place, or any person might be the bearer of God's counsel and wisdom. We never know where God might turn up next, but when we stop and ask for guidance, it always comes.



Young peacemakers

The most important peacemaking skills you can teach are repentance, confession, and forgiveness. Children must be taught to take responsibility for their actions, express sorrow for hurting others, and commit themselves to forgive one another no matter what.

Share values

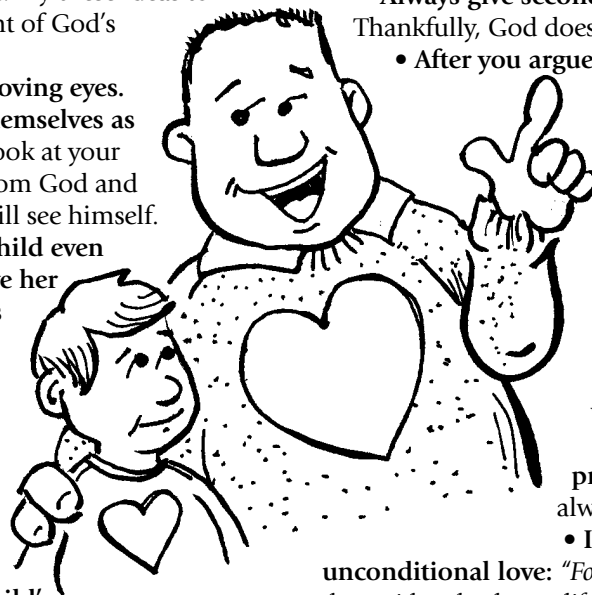
One way to encourage your children to share your values is to talk about them. Tell them that attendance at Mass, diligence in school, and total honesty are important to you. Five minutes' conversation from time to time is enough. Then pray they get the message.



Teach your child about God's great love

Children learn about God's love from their parents. They experience it when we parent with love. Try these ideas to be an instrument of God's love:

- Look with loving eyes. Children see themselves as we see them. Look at your child as a gift from God and that's how he will see himself.
- Love your child even if you don't love her behavior. That's the way God loves.
- Use "no" as a loving word. Hearing it occasionally teaches self-control.
- Take your child's phone call wherever you are. God always listens to our prayers.
- Don't bring up past mistakes.
- Give public compliments. God praised Jesus in front of everyone saying,



"This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

- Always give second chances. Thankfully, God does.
- After you argue, forgive with a hug.
- Skip your chores occasionally and spend time together. God wants nothing more than to be with us.
- Keep your promises. God always does.
- Imitate Jesus' unconditional love: *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:38-39).

Why Do Catholics Do That ?

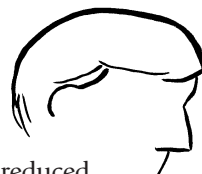
Why do Catholics believe in indulgences?

Every sin has consequences. We may be forgiven but we still have to suffer and make amends.

Through an indulgence, God grants the prayer of the Church that the temporal penalty for sin be reduced or possibly eliminated. For

example, after prescribed actions and prayers, a plenary indulgence removes temporal punishment for sin.

For more information, see the Handbook of Indulgences available at most Catholic bookstores and through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org, (202) 541-3000.

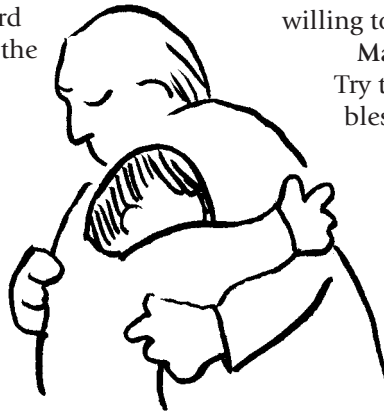


"Sell" your child on forgiveness

Delaying rewards for good behavior is hard for children to understand. Yet, sometimes the good we do in this life is not rewarded until the next. But the benefits of forgiveness are felt immediately. Try these tips for "selling" your child on forgiveness:

Do unto others ..."

God has promised that we are forgiven more easily when we forgive others. *"Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven"* (Sirach 28:2). People are more



willing to forgive our errors if we do the same for them.

Make room for better things.

Try turning your youngster's attention to her blessings rather than hurts. When our time and attention isn't absorbed by bad feelings, we are better able to see the good things around us.

We do it for ourselves.

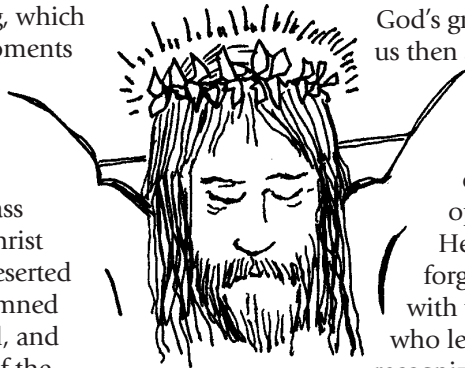
Forgiving doesn't mean you agree with what happened. It does mean that you will stop blaming others and move on. Forgiveness is something we do for ourselves.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 23:35-42, Christ the King

This Gospel reading, which portrays Jesus just moments from his death on the Cross, seems at first to contradict the solemnity on which it is read in Mass – the Solemnity of Christ the King. Jesus was deserted by his friends, condemned by the more powerful, and subjected to torture of the worst kind. That is not our traditional view of a king.

Yet it is at that moment when Jesus is, in fact, at his strongest. It is at that moment when he is shouldering the sins of the entire human race and restoring



God's grace to each one of us then and now. No king on earth could do that except Jesus.

At that moment on Calvary, Jesus opens the gates of Heaven and grants forgiveness, beginning with the man beside him 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

Tammy started lying when she was eight years old. Most were impulsive attempts to avoid responsibility for misdeeds and I hoped she would outgrow the habit. To be sure, I simply stopped giving her opportunities to lie.

For example, my son was missing \$5 from the bank on his dresser. Pretty sure that Tammy had taken it, I

cornered her, put out my hand and said, "Give me Redmond's \$5, please."

Stunned by my mind-reading ability, Tammy pulled \$5 from her pocket and gave it to her brother. She was too surprised to lie. Then she went to her room until dinner.

The Holy Spirit provided a few similar opportunities for me to catch Tammy at misdeeds and each time I denied her the opportunity to lie.

In time Tammy realized that lying was useless and stopped altogether. If only all bad habits were so easy to lose.



Feasts & Celebrations

In October we celebrate the Rosary. The Rosary helps us meditate on the mysteries of our salvation – Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. And we also ask for Mary's intercession – the most powerful of all the angels and saints.

October 1 – St. Therese of the Child Jesus (1897). At the age of 15, Therese Martin became a Carmelite nun in Lisieux, France and served others with "quiet acts of love." Her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, is an easy read for older children.

October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi

(1226). St. Francis took the gospel literally and followed all that Jesus said. Two years before his death, St. Francis received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

October 18 – St. Luke (1st century).

St. Luke was a Christian physician from Antioch. His Gospel and Acts of the Apostles were probably written between 70 and 85 A.D.



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