

Partners *in* FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2009



Thoughtful Moments

Happy Father's Day

When making your Father's Day gift list, don't forget your real Father in Heaven. How about giving him the gift of yourself? Go to Confession as a family, attend an extra Mass, or spend additional time in family prayer. He'd rather have you than a tie.



Do it today

In June we remember St. Norbert, a rich nobleman who delayed answering God's call. He avoided becoming a priest because he loved his luxurious life too much. One day he was hit by lightning and God got his full attention. Then Norbert became a priest, bishop and saint. Don't wait for God to get your full attention. Do his will today.

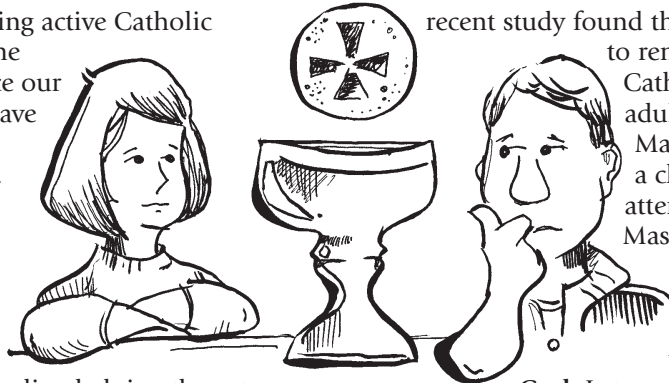
Don't vacation from Mass

Catholics are obligated to attend Mass every weekend and every Holy Day of Obligation. Don't skip Mass this summer, not even when you are on vacation. It can be enjoyable to visit Catholic churches you don't normally attend.



Will your children stay Catholic?

Becoming active Catholic adults is the best chance our children have for lasting happiness. While we can't guarantee they will choose to stay



recent study found that a key factor to remaining Catholic as an adult is attending Mass regularly as a child. Make attending weekly Mass non-negotiable in your home. **Teach them to trust**

active Catholics, helping them to understand and appreciate their faith may make it more likely.

Teach them to pray. Praying regularly helps develop a loving relationship with God. Pray in front of your children often and invite them to pray with you.

Teach them about the basics. Use a Catholic source such as the Catechism to refresh your knowledge of our faith. Then explain the teachings to your children.

Teach them to love the Mass. A

God. Let your children see your trust in God. Encourage them to go to God with all their concerns.

Teach them to give. Going to Mass and observing devotions is important, but being Catholic doesn't stop there. As a family, support a charity or volunteer at a hospital or crisis pregnancy center.

Teach them to love. Being Catholic is about love and our homes are where children first learn about love. We must act out of love, teach love, and model love so that children will learn how to love themselves and others.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Do Catholics still observe meatless Fridays?

Catholics are still required to abstain from eating meat on Fridays throughout the year. Friday is traditionally a day of penance in the Church.

In requiring this penance, the Church helps us to repent and atone for our sins. When we deny ourselves



something we value and to which we are accustomed, we offer our suffering as penance.

Catholics are also given the option of substituting an alternate form of penance instead of abstaining from meat. The point is still to observe Friday as a day of penance and contrition.

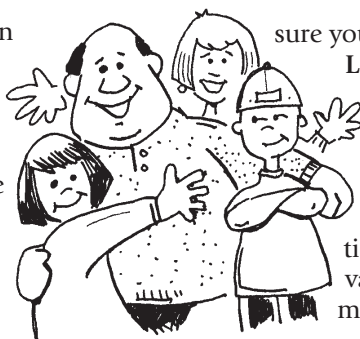
Make special summer memories

Summertime filled with family time can make memories your children will cherish for years to come. Try these ideas for creating a summer that will delight you all:

Maintain a relaxed schedule. Everyone needs some degree of relaxation, so try not to make the schedule too crowded.

Take a vote. Find out which activities from prior summers were favorites and turn them into traditions.

Don't expect too much. Sometimes the only problem with memory-making is the parent's expectations. Make



sure yours are realistic and focus on what goes right.

Look through their eyes. In the midst of an activity or situation, ask yourself, "Is this the memory I want to give them?" If it isn't, change it.

Keep it simple. The best summer memories come out of giving your family your undivided time and attention. More than an expensive vacation or trip, that's what they'll remember most.

Give thanks. Find something good in each summer moment. Let your children know you are thankful God gave them to you to cherish.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 5:21-43, The rewards of faith

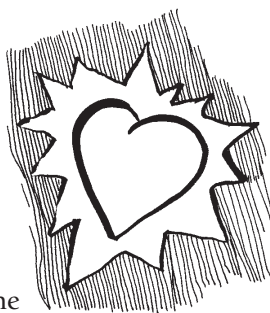
Jairus had a daughter who was critically ill. As the leader of the local synagogue, he knew it was dangerous to have anything to do with Jesus, let alone acknowledge his power as the Son of God. Still, Jairus risked everything to approach Jesus and beg for his daughter's cure. He believed that Jesus could and would help him, and he was rewarded for his faith.

There was also a woman suffering from a serious hemorrhage. According to Jewish law, her constant bleeding would have made her unclean, and most people would have nothing to do with her. She was

afraid Jesus wouldn't want to touch her either, but she knew he had the power to cure her.

So great was her faith that she was convinced she could just touch his garment to be cured.

What can a parent do? Tell your children of these two faith-filled people and how their faith was rewarded. Remind them that they can turn to Jesus and trust him to help in any situation. Great things are possible when we believe.



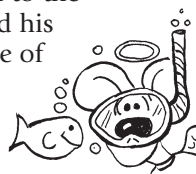
Feasts & Celebrations

June 5 - St. Boniface (754). Called the Apostle of Germany, St. Boniface was a monk dedicated to spreading the Gospel in Germany. He converted many to Christianity and was instrumental in restoring dioceses in Bavaria, Thuringia, and Franconia.

June 11 - St. Barnabas (1st Century). The Apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, which means "son of encouragement" because he sold his property and gave the much needed

funds to the Jerusalem community. He accompanied St. Paul on his first evangelical journey.

June 13 - St. Anthony of Padua (1231). In answering God's call as a very young man, St. Anthony gave up a life of comfort and wealth. After spending many years devoted to prayer and Scripture, St. Anthony became the first friar to teach theology to the other friars. He was also asked to preach to the heretics, and he used his profound knowledge of Scripture and theology to help convert them.



family FUN

Make a Memory Box to store happy memories from the summer.

Start with a sturdy cardboard box with a lid, such as a shoe box. Let your child label it with the year and decorate it with wrapping paper, Sunday comics, magazine pictures or anything that will make it look cheerful and fun. Give it a durable finish by brushing on a coat of white glue thinned with water or covering it with clear contact paper.

Throughout the summer, place souvenirs from family outings inside the box. Include bags of beach sand, seed packet envelopes, movie tickets, maps, invitations, or even autographs from visiting friends and family. At the end of the summer, find a special place for the Memory Box.

Each year, make a new box, and fill it with that year's favorite memories.



Open and share prior years' boxes at the beginning of each summer to get ideas for making new summer memories.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children.

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(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)