

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

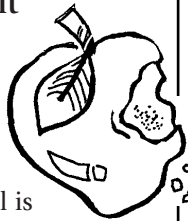
April 2009



## Thoughtful Moments

### Good guilt

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they hid from him because they felt guilt. When we do something wrong, the guilt we feel is good even though it feels bad. Guilt encourages us to seek forgiveness and make our wrongs right.



### Don't be dared

Herod tried to impress a girl by promising to give her whatever she wanted if she danced for him and his friends. When she finished, she asked for the death of John the Baptist. Herod knew it was wrong but didn't want to be shamed before his friends, so he ordered John's death. Try to stay out of situations in which doing the right thing is embarrassing. But always do what is right, no matter how embarrassing it may be.

### Prayer works

The Israelites were so sinful that God was ready to destroy the entire nation. But Moses prayed for them, and God relented. Prayer can make a difference.



## Strengthen the affection connection

The best discipline strategies in the world won't work unless your children know you love them. Here are five ways you can use to communicate love:

1. **Say, "I love you,"** until they're tired of hearing it ... and then say it again. Praise them in public like God did, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:17).

2. **Welcome your children's friends.** Try to see that yours is the house in which everyone wants to play. Your children will appreciate your Christian hospitality to their friends.

3. **Let your children serve you.** Every family member is called to serve the

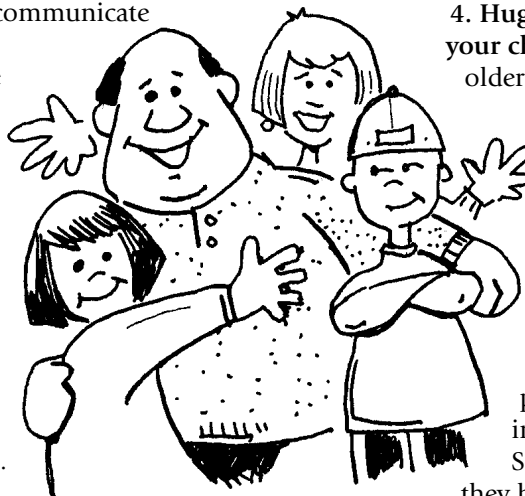
other members. That means children should have the opportunity to give love as well as receive it.

4. **Hug, kiss, and cuddle your children ...** even the older ones. Just five minutes of sitting and talking together is worth more than all the "stuff" you can ever buy for them.

5. **Learn their love language.** Each person receives love in a specific way. Some feel loved when they hear it said. Others

need to see evidence, such as affectionate notes or small gifts. Still others need to feel it or touch it and appreciate hugs and cuddling.

Parents showing love is the best way for children to learn how to experience God's love for them.



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

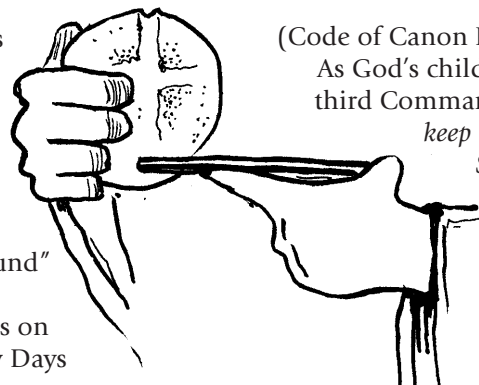
### Why do Catholics take their families to Mass on Sunday?

Catholic families are part of the Catholic Church, so we worship with the Church. The laws of the Church say that Catholics are "bound" or obligated to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days

(Code of Canon Law, No. 1247).

As God's children, we honor the third Commandment, *"Remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day.*

*Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God"* (Exodus 20:8-11).



## Just desserts

Have you ever known someone who always seems to get away with breaking rules without getting caught? That almost makes sin look attractive. Yet, as followers of Jesus, we know that getting away with something on Earth doesn't mean we have gotten away with anything.

In the book of Daniel, poor Susanna had a dilemma. Two older respected men of her community cornered her while she was bathing and demanded that she sin with them. They were in private, and no



one need ever know. If she didn't, they promised to falsely accuse her of crimes for which she would die.

As much as she feared the men, Susanna feared God even more. *"If I yield, it will be my death; if I refuse, I cannot escape your power. Yet it is better for me to fall into your power without guilt than to sin before the Lord"* (Daniel 13:23). In the end, God sent Daniel to save her.

Those who follow God always get rewarded in the end.

### Scripture LESSON

#### John 14:15-21; Powerful promises

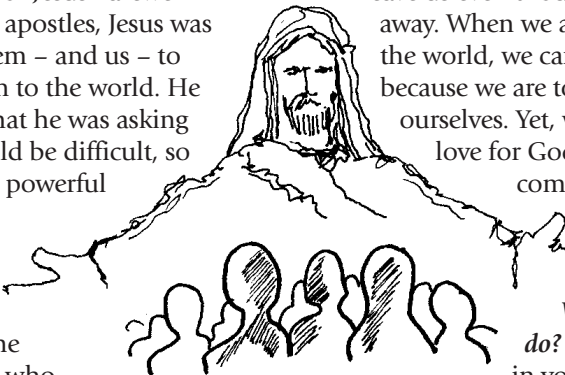
In this part of Jesus' farewell speech to his apostles, Jesus was preparing them – and us – to represent him to the world. He knew that what he was asking us to do would be difficult, so he made two powerful promises.

First, he promised to send an

Advocate – the Holy Spirit – who

would always be with us. The gift of the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all his followers and help us to see the truth of God's love for us.

Second, he promised that he wouldn't



leave us even though he was going away. When we are absorbed by the world, we can't "see" Jesus because we are too focused on ourselves. Yet, when we live our

love for God by obeying his commandments and loving others, we show Jesus to the world.

*What can a parent do?* Help instill habits in your children so that

they can grow in God's love: prayer, devotion to Scripture, dedication to the Sacraments. Teach by example that Christians show God's love to the world.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**April 7 – St. John Baptist de la Salle (1719).** John was from a noble family and had a comfortable upbringing. At age 11, he started preparing for the priesthood and was ordained at 27. He founded the Brothers of the Christian School, dedicated to educating destitute boys using new instructional techniques he developed. Pope Pius XII named him patron of schoolteachers as a result.

**April 11 – St. Stanislaus (1079).** Born near Kraków, Stanislaus was ordained a priest after being educated in Paris and Gniezno, then capital of

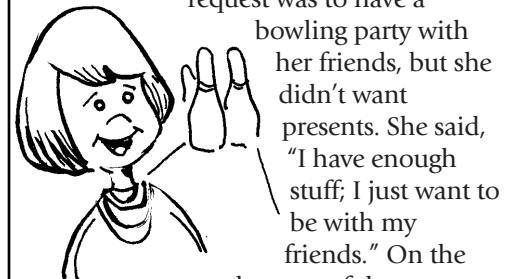
Poland. His eloquence and example inspired conversion in both clergy and laity. As bishop of Kraków, Stanislaus spoke out against the evil King Boleslaus II, who eventually killed Stanislaus by his own hand.

**April 25 – St. Mark (1st century).** Not one of the 12 apostles, Mark nonetheless recorded the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels. Probably written for Gentile converts in Rome, Mark's Gospel emphasizes Jesus' rejection by humanity but his triumphant victory as God's representative.



### Parent TALK

My oldest daughter recently celebrated her fourteenth birthday. Her birthday request was to have a



bowling party with her friends, but she didn't want presents. She said, "I have enough stuff; I just want to be with my friends." On the

bottom of the invitations, she wrote "Your presence is my present. Instead, please bring contributions for the Knights of Columbus soup kitchen," her favorite charity.

Twelve teenagers spent the afternoon giggling, bowling, and eating birthday cupcakes with gusto. When it came time to go, we found that the guests brought so many cans of food, we could barely cram them into my car. When Kara opened her birthday cards, many of them held checks. Her friends donated close to \$400 in Kara's honor.

I don't know which pleased me more, Kara's generosity in thinking of the poor on her birthday, or the generous kids she has chosen as friends.

#### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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