

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

October 2018

St. Nicholas Academy
Aideen Briggs, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. John XXIII

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born to a farming family in Bergamo, Italy. Ordained as a priest in 1904, he served as the bishop's secretary before being enlisted as an army chaplain during World War I. As Pope John XXIII, Angelo never forgot his humble origins and often visited the poor, the sick and prisoners. As pope, he worked for peace and unity in a world preparing for war. He is most remembered for opening the Second Vatican Council.



Share values

A way to encourage children to share your values is to talk about them. For example, let them know that attendance at Mass, diligence in school, and truthfulness are important. Ten minutes' conversation from time to time is enough. Pray they get the message.

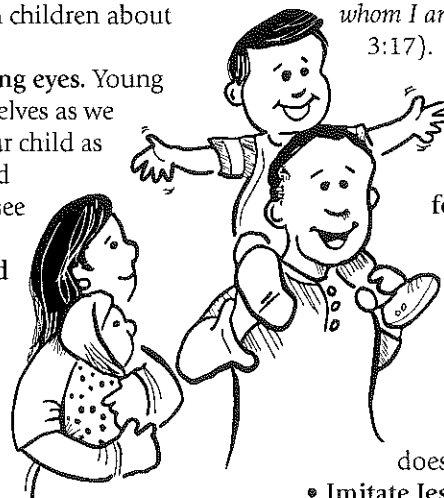
"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; for they are a fair garland for your head, and pendants for your neck"
(Proverbs 1:8-9).



Love your child with God's great love

Children learn about God's love from their parents. They experience it most clearly when we parent lovingly. Try these ideas to teach children about God's great love:

- **Look with loving eyes.** Young children see themselves as we see them. Treat 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 how God loves us.
- **Use "no" as a loving word.** Hearing it occasionally teaches youngsters self-control.
- **Take your child's phone call no matter what you are doing.** God always listens to our prayers.
- **Don't bring up past mistakes.** Our Father never revisits sins we have repented.

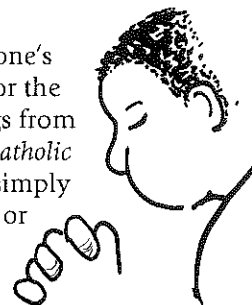


- **Give public compliments.** God praised Jesus in front of everyone saying, *"This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:17).
- **Always give second chances.** Thankfully, God does.
- **After you argue, forgive with a hug.**
- **Skip chores occasionally and spend time together.** God wants nothing more than our company.
- **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 have "formal" prayers?

Prayer is "the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2559). Prayer, simply put, is talking with God, or else, spending time with him. In today's



busy world, we can't always "hear" God right away. Formal prayers, like the Our Father and the Hail Mary help us attune to God's way of speaking. They help calm our busy minds so God can speak to our hearts.

Share the joy of the Rosary

October is a month when we celebrate the Rosary. Pope St. Pius V attributed a 16th century naval victory saving Europe from a Turkish invasion to the intercession of Our Lady through the Rosary. We arm our children with a powerful weapon against evil when we teach them to call on Our Lady's help through the Rosary.

Sit together in a comfortable place. Remind children that Our Lady is a mom, happy to have her children's attention.

Choose intentions. When we pray for others' best



interests, children learn the power of prayer.

Start with a story. Pick a mystery and use it to tell a story about Jesus' life and ministry.

Observe 30 seconds of silence. Sit silently for 30 seconds while picturing the image and mystery of Jesus' life.

Start by praying a decade. It takes less than five minutes. As youngsters pray with patience, add mysteries and decades until you pray an entire Rosary. Don't force it. We want prayer to be a joy, not a chore.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 10:46-52, a blind man leads the way

A blind beggar saw Jesus more clearly than the followers who were his companions.

Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was near and cried out, "Son of David," a title reserved for the Messiah. Although people tried to quiet him, Bartimaeus persisted and Jesus finally noticed him and had his disciples call him over.

Bartimaeus responded by casting aside his cloak and rushing to Jesus. Even the little he had was thrown aside. The only person in Mark's gospel to call Jesus, "Master," Bartimaeus stood before Jesus humble and confident that his



prayer would be answered. It is this profound trust that Jesus wanted to elicit from the crowd. When his prayer was answered, Bartimaeus followed Jesus as his disciple.

What can a parent do? Sometimes difficulties of being Christian can blind us to the joys of following Jesus. Help children approach Jesus with excitement and

confidence. When we trust him as Bartimaeus did, we become true disciples who can tackle the difficult task of leading others down the road to God.

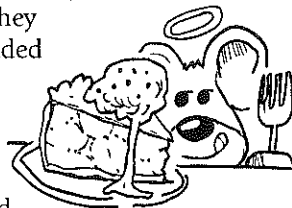
Feasts & Celebrations

Oct. 5 – St. Faustina Kowalska (1938). Helena Kowalska was born to a large, poor, devout family in Poland. Against her parents' wishes, she joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, taking the name Sr. Maria Faustina. In 1931, Jesus appeared to her and told her to paint an image of the Divine Mercy and to spread devotion to his mercy.

Oct. 17 – St. Richard Gwyn (1584). St. Richard Gwyn was a schoolteacher in Wales. Originally raised Protestant, St. Richard converted to Catholicism even when it was considered

treasonous in his country. He remained a faithful Catholic, resulting in his arrest and persecution. After being brought to court several times, he was martyred in 1584.

Oct. 28 – Saints Simon and Jude (1st Century). St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they eventually ended up in Persia where they evangelized until they were martyred.



Parent TALK

"The Rosary is boring!" my oldest complained. "It's the same prayer over and over." We pray a rosary daily, but it used to be a struggle. To my girls—ten and seven years old—it was "Mom's thing." I hadn't taught them what I loved about the prayer.



I ordered simple rosary-making kits for us online. When they arrived, Kara, Tessa, and I put them together one rainy Saturday afternoon and had a mini-lesson about it. Each girl chose different color beads. Kara liked the idea of St. Padre Pio calling his Rosary his "weapon" against temptation; Tessa like the idea of being able to call on Mother Mary whenever she wanted—especially when she was in trouble. Both girls were surprised to learn the Rosary was a prayer about Jesus, through Mary's eyes.

Kara was excited to have a Rosary that she made herself: it wasn't just "Mom's thing" anymore.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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