

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

February 2014



Thoughtful Moments

St. Scholastica

St. Scholastica was so close to her twin brother, St. Benedict, that she founded a Benedictine community for women five miles from his monastery. She looked forward to their annual visits.

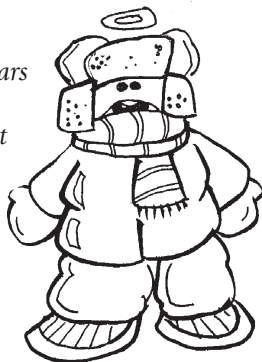


One year, Scholastica asked her brother to spend the night but he declined. His own rule required monks to sleep in the monastery. Scholastica prayed and a sudden storm prevented Benedict's departure. Three days later, Benedict saw a dove rising from his sister's convent and realized she had died.

Who made you?

From the Baltimore Catechism: Who made you? (God) and Why did God make you? (to know, love, and serve him in this life and to be forever happy with him in the next). Each person is created by God for love. This is our purpose on Earth.

"A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke" (Proverbs 13:1).



Love your children always

Children who feel unconditionally loved by their parents are less likely to fear failure or judgment and more likely to look at their parents as advocates rather than adversaries. These children can accept themselves as fundamentally good, even when they occasionally mess up. With that confidence, they're more open to loving and helping others.

Show that love doesn't depend upon behavior. That doesn't mean our children are always loveable. While you may not feel like snuggling and reading a bedtime story with a child who earlier pitched a tantrum in the supermarket, making such affectionate treatment dependent upon your child's behavior tells her that

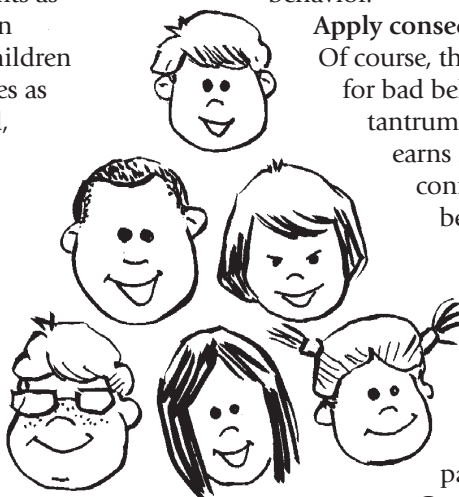
you only love her when she is good. But love is an unconditional gift from the heart; it is not a reward for good behavior.

Apply consequences consistently.

Of course, there are consequences for bad behavior. That temper tantrum in the supermarket earns 30 minutes confinement in a bedroom upon returning home or an extra chore. Then the incident is forgotten. Bad behavior requires making amends but never costs a parent's love.

God doesn't only love us

when we are good. He loves us even when we sin. He wants us to correct our unacceptable behavior, make amends, and climb right back into his loving embrace. That's the love we need to show our children.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics pray the Confiteor at Mass?

In ancient times, God's people fasted, prayed, and cleansed themselves before engaging in a great work for him. To prepare for the Eucharist, we fast before Mass. We also cleanse our hearts and souls by expressing contrition for our sins through the Confiteor



(Latin for "I confess").

Through this prayer, we take personal responsibility for our sins – "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault" – and we ask for the prayers of the Church on our behalf.

Good gossip

Most school-aged children can be the initiator and the victim of gossip – spreading rumors or whispering about someone else. While a common part of child development, gossip can leave scars that persist for years. Instead, encourage children to spread only good gossip - the kind that builds people up.

Don't participate. Gossips need an audience. When rumors are being spread about another child, encourage your child not to listen. Better still, say something positive about the child who is subject of the gossip and then walk away..



Defend the truth. When gossips are spreading lies about others, we want to do our best to stand up for the truth. That's the Christian way.

Spread good news. When another student has achievements or awards to his credit, share his good news. That's good gossip.

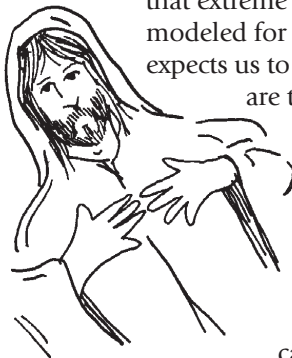
Model good gossip. Studies show that children pick up gracious habits from their parents. Let your children hear you talk about others in positive, affirming ways. Never engage in negative talk about others. Children will hear that, too.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 5:38-48, Forgiving always

In ancient times, the concept of justice was, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." That was devised to limit the conflict between clans from getting out of hand. (Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20 and Deuteronomy 19:21) Later, the concept was misused to imply it was a right to a brutal form of justice. Jesus changed all that.

Jesus' approach to justice turns our eyes not to justice on Earth but in Heaven. Loving our enemies or those who hurt us repeatedly means forgiving them over and over. That

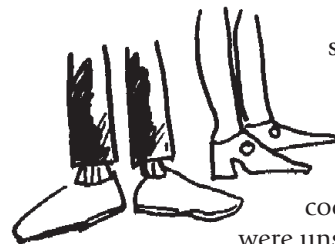


often seems an impossible task but that extreme forgiveness is what Jesus modeled for us on Earth and what he expects us to live. As Christians, we are to represent Christ to others. That means not just talking about him, but living the way he lived.

What can a parent do? The most effective way a parent can pass on faith in Christ is by living a Christian life. There is no better witness than offering forgiveness to all. Your children will see this and model it, too.

Parent TALK

The youth in our parish petitioned for a dance to include other parishes in the area. The pastor and youth director agreed, and the youth director helped with guidelines.



I was surprised that the students asked for a dress code. They

were unsure what to wear and a dress code minimized the guesswork. Each teen was asked to dance with at least two others they didn't know prior to the evening. And they agreed not to say "no" to anyone who asks for a first dance if the request is polite.

The dance was a triumph. When most of the expected dancers had arrived, a few simple line dances and partner dances were demonstrated and the dancing began. A few of the youths took it upon themselves to make sure no one sat out a dance. By the end of the night, all of the teens acted like old friends.

Feasts & Celebrations

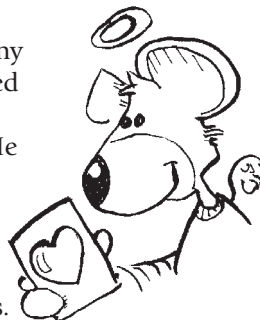
Feb. 2 – The Presentation of the Lord. In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to make the required offering forty days after his birth.

Feb. 3 – St. Blaise (316). He was martyred for refusing to renounce his Catholic faith. Priests usually bless throats on this day because St. Blaise, reportedly a physician, healed many ailments of the throat.

Feb. 14 – St. Cyril (869). St. Cyril was a missionary, teacher, and patron of the Slavic people. He invented an alphabet still used in some Eastern

liturgies, and preached the Gospel in a more easily understood manner. He died in Rome.

Feb. 21 – St. Peter Damian (1072). Childhood deprivation may have created a desire for an austere life. St. Peter Damian became a devoted and disciplined monk but was called to service as a bishop for many years and served as advisor to seven popes. He retired to monastic life and died in the care of his brother monks.



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