

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2015

St. Joseph School

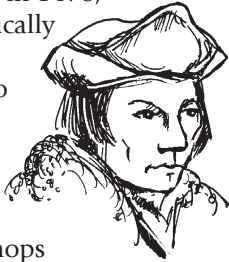
Mrs. Danette Ragusa, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Thomas More

Born in London in 1478, Thomas was classically educated before entering Oxford to study law. His legal career took him to Parliament where he numbered bishops and scholars among his friends. King Henry VIII appointed him Lord Chancellor but Thomas resigned three years later when Henry opposed the pope. Thomas spent the rest of his life defending the Catholic Church. In 1534, Thomas refused to recognize the King as the Head of the Church of England, was imprisoned and executed.



Summer memories

Summertime filled with family time can make memories your children will cherish for years to come. Make special memories in each summer moment.

Happy Father's Day

"Children, obey your parents [in the Lord], for this is right.

'Honor your father and mother.' This is the first commandment with a promise, 'that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth'" (Ephesians 6:1).



Will our children remember what we teach?

When our children are grown, will they remember the lessons we taught? They may if we have raised children of character.

Be an authoritative parent.

Authoritative parents expect to be respected and obeyed. They set standards and enforce them firmly but aren't afraid to answer questions or admit when they are wrong. Those values help form the conscience.

Shape the moral environment.

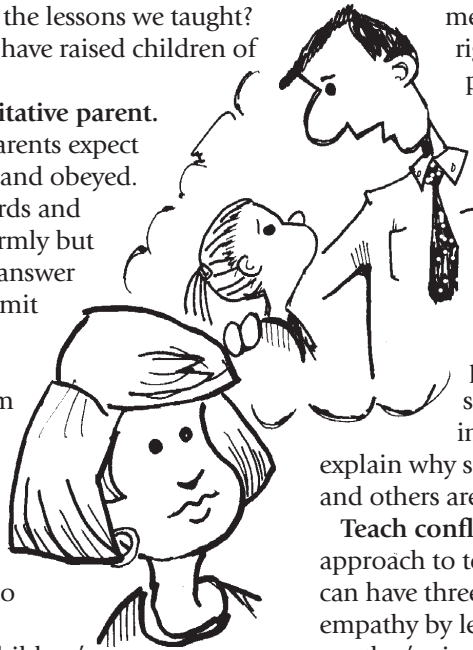
Studies show that parents who appropriately monitor their children's activities and friends raise young people with lower rates of risky behaviors and better accountability. It is critical to monitor children's use of media.

Consider a rule like this: "The use of media is a privilege, not a right, and it requires my permission and presence."

Preach what you practice. To develop a strong conscience, children eventually need to understand the "why" of what is asked of them. "Say 'please' and 'thank you.'" "Look at the person to whom you are speaking." "Don't interrupt." Use our faith to

explain why some behaviors are right and others are wrong.

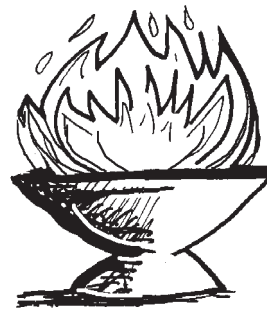
Teach conflict resolution. A good approach to teaching conflict resolution can have three parts: developing empathy by learning to understand another's viewpoint, arriving at a solution fair to all, and monitoring the solution for effectiveness. Youngsters who learn to resolve conflicts on their own will possess an invaluable life skill.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

What do we believe about eternal life?

God is eternal. He had no beginning and he will have no end. "God is love" (1 John 4:16). When we love God, we come into his eternal presence. Therefore, eternal life begins with Baptism, continues through death and has no end.



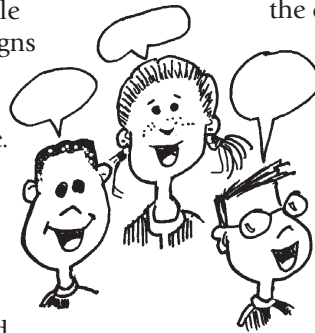
"Living forever with God in the happiness of Heaven, entered after death by the souls of those who die in the grace of friendship of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). That's the eternal life for which we hope.

Three phrases that strengthen a happy family life

Pope Francis recently said there are three simple phrases that, when used daily in family life as signs of our love, will strengthen family life. When ignored, their lack can cause cracks in the foundation of the family and lead to its collapse.

"May I?" Even if we think we have the right to something, using these words renews trust and respect, reminds others of our love for them and allows them to open the door of their hearts to us.

"Thank you." Gratitude makes us more sensitive to the dignity of the human person and



the demands of social justice. Thankfulness is the language of God, to whom above all, we must express our gratitude.

"Pardon me." When we ask forgiveness, we show our desire to restore what was lost – respect, honesty, love – and healing between family members is made possible. Without forgiveness, hurt can weaken our family.

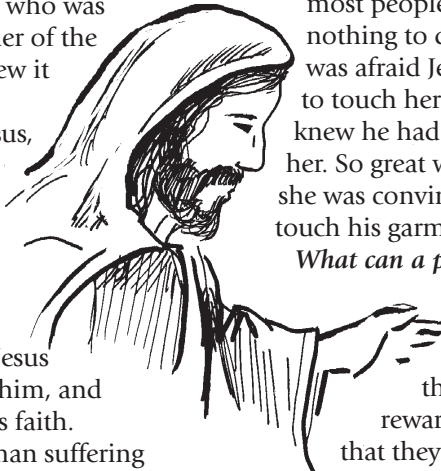
The Holy Father asks that we try to keep these three phrases in our hearts, our homes, and our communities.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 5:21-43, 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.



Parent TALK

Using bad language is one of my struggles. When I overheard my Tessa using the same language, I was ashamed of the example I had set. I decided to incentivize us both to stop.

I explained that using bad language degrades us when we use it. Jesus said, "... It is not what enters one's mouth that defiles that person; but what comes out of the mouth is what defiles one" (Matthew 15:11). As followers of Christ, we need to show a better witness.

I proposed a "Good Word Jar." Every time we used a good word when we really wanted to use a bad word, we put \$.25 in the jar and placed a check under our name on the label. At the end of the week, whoever had the most checks got the money in the jar. Tessa won but we both feel good about using better speech.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

© Copyright 2015 Success Publishing & Media, LLC