

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2016

St. Joseph School

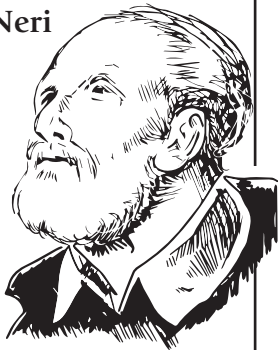
Mrs. Danette Ragusa, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Philip Neri

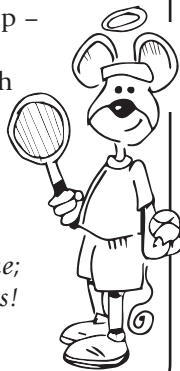
Born in Florence in 1515, St. Philip Neri was known for his impulsiveness and sense of humor from a young age. He abandoned his career as a businessman and was ordained a priest instead. He spent much of his time giving spiritual direction to the youth day and night. He later founded the Oratorians, where reading, singing, and charitable works were to be practiced. He is remembered for his humor and his joyful love of God.



3 steps of compassion

When we see someone struggling, we don't always know the right thing to do. Acting in love, we can distill our action into three useful steps: Observe, Stop, Reach. Observe - become aware of another's suffering. Stop - stop everything and become attentive. Reach out in kindness. Look for ways to show compassion today.

"I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew"
(Psalm 139:14).



Who wants happy children?

All good parents want their children to be happy, but we also recognize that their happiness is out of our control. What we can do is help our youngsters grow up knowing they are prepared, connected, and loved.

Prepared leads to happy. Parents often invest in short-term happiness at the expense of long-term growth. For example, when we help them avoid childhood discomforts now, we keep them from developing skills needed to handle future pain or suffering. Instead, teach the coping skills and resilience necessary to bounce back from life's inevitable setbacks.

Foster healthy connections. Quality and quantity of childhood bonds contribute to promoting emotional well-being as children grow. Encouraging healthy connections with

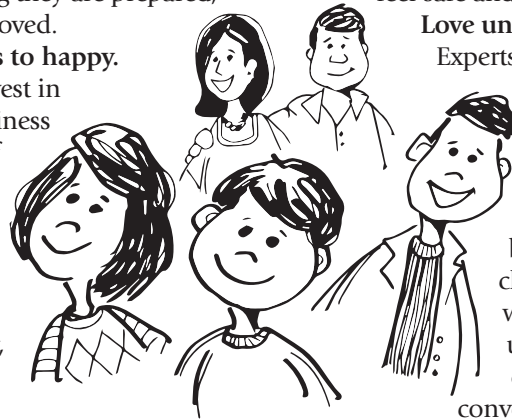
family, friends, neighbors, daycare providers, even pets can be important in helping children deal with emotions, resolve conflicts, learn kindness, and feel safe and loved.

Love unconditionally.

Experts say that a feeling of being loved, understood, acknowledged and wanted protects against risky behaviors. Hug children. Respond with empathy to upsets, engage in daily two-way conversations, eat

together, snuggle, laugh often.

Be happy, yourself. Children watch and absorb much from us. Our wellbeing affects theirs. A critical step we can take toward our children's happiness is to take care of ourselves, mentally and physically. To be a healthy parent, make time for rest, relaxation, and lots of prayer.

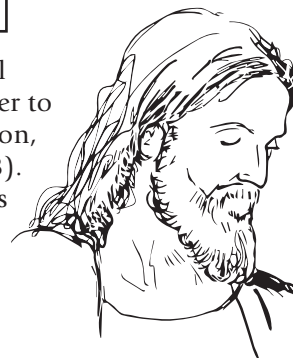


Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics believe Jesus is true God and true man?

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary and asked her to be the mother of God's Son, she said, "Yes" (Luke 1:38). As a human mother, Jesus received from her his human nature.

Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.



"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). The Church teaches, "[Jesus] is truly the Son of God who ... became a man and our brother" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #469).

Put the brakes on back talk

A child's habit of making snide comments, indulging in disdainful sneers, muttering under her breath may seem harmless now, but a snippy attitude hampers the growth of skills in communication, conflict-resolution, and empathy. Talking back will have to be unlearned to become an effective adult. Why not put the brakes on back talk as soon as it starts?

Be selective about TV or video viewing. Programs on network television or video sites often create exaggerated characters to enhance



the comic factor. A regular diet of rude but funny characters gives children the idea that rudeness and disrespect is entertaining.

Stop it when it starts. Laugh at a wisecrack from a precocious three-year-old and you may be sorry when he makes similar remarks at ten.

Don't fight when you have already won. Some children see an adult's firm "no" as "let's negotiate."

Don't get drawn in. State your rule with a reasonable explanation, repeat if necessary, then visibly and obviously move on. No need to fight a battle you have already won.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 9:11b-17, God's generosity

In this Gospel, we see Jesus' compassion and generosity. Even though he and his disciples were tired after a long hard day of preaching, when the crowds followed Jesus, he administered to them. The crowds were tired, sick, and hungry.

The disciples, overwhelmed by the numbers of the crowds, asked Jesus to send everyone home so they could eat. Instead, Jesus took what little the crowds had to offer—five loaves and two fish—and multiplied them a thousand times over. *"They all ate and were satisfied"* (Luke 9:17). For God,



there is no need so great it can't be met.

God can't be outdone in generosity. Relying on him, we have more than we need: clothes, food, shelter, money, or time. When we give him a little in gratitude, he returns it a hundred-fold. We see this pattern of

generosity most clearly in the Eucharist.

What can a parent do? Take your family to Mass each week without fail. During that one hour of time we spend with him, God offers himself to us, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

Parent TALK

I wanted to increase our devotion to our Blessed Mother, so I thought it would be fun to make a Mary garden for the month of May. Then we could look at the flowers and remember to ask for her prayers and protection.

The first nice day in Spring, we got started. We prepared the soil and spent a few hours digging out the weeds and rocks. Then we went to a garden center and bought lilies to symbolize her purity, violets for her humility,



marigolds (Mary's Gold) for her simplicity, and roses for her love.

Finally, after planting the flowers, we put a small statue of Mary that I found online in the center.

My girls enjoyed learning about the different flowers associated with Mary and the important events in her life. Now our Mary Garden is in full bloom and is a nice reminder to imitate her virtue.

Feasts & Celebrations

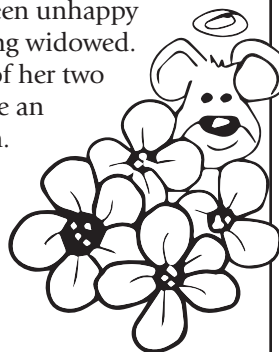
May 15- Pentecost (1st century).

After the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was given to the Church at the first Pentecost. When the apostles received the Holy Spirit, the "new age" of the Church was born.

May 17 - St. Paschal of Baylon (1592). Born in Spain to poor and pious parents, Paschal worked as a shepherd, which allowed him time to nurture a life of prayer and mortification. In 1564, Paschal joined the local monastery and spent the rest of his time in service to the

community and the poor people that visited them.

May 22 - St. Rita of Cascia (1457). Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St. Rita desired to become a nun from an early age. Unwillingly married off to a cruel husband at the age of twelve, St. Rita spent eighteen unhappy years before being widowed. After the death of her two sons, she became an Augustinian nun. She became known for her devotion to prayer and charity.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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