## RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



# Focus on Faith

a parent page

### **Caring for Our World**

A man was told that he had inoperable cancer and had only a few months to live. He decided to spend the time he had left cleaning up the stream in the back of his property. Now, a number of years later, he is still alive. Salmon are once again swimming in the stream. His small decision had great benefits both for the ecology of the world and for himself. The small decisions that we make today regarding whether to care for the environment will have a great impact on the lives of our children in the years to come. They will inherit the world that we create for them.

## Spirituality in Action

There are many ways, large and small, that your family can contribute to animal shelters. Shelters are always



grateful for cash donations, but they are also happy to receive donations of paper towels, dog and cat food, litter, and cleaning supplies. In addition, volunteer opportunities are available, ranging from cleaning cages to walking dogs. Contact your local shelter for more information on ways you and your family can help, or visit www.saveourstrays.com to locate no-kill shelters.

#### **Dinnertime Conversation Starter**

With your family examine how you are creating a better environment for the future. What more can your family do in the way of



recycling or saving natural resources? How can you protect and show respect for animals?

## Hints for at Home

With your child create a bird feeder, birdbath, or butterfly feeder, and place it in a conspicuous area of your yard, where it will encourage God's creatures to seek out your home as a safe refuge.

Talk with your child about how every animal and insect contributes to our world in its own special way and how by caring for living things, we show our love for God and his world. You may also want to visit the Humane Society of the United States at <a href="https://www.hsus.org">www.hsus.org</a>, an organization that promotes respect and care for animals of all kinds.

# Focus on Prayer

Over the year your child has learned the following prayers: Sign of the Cross, Glory Be to the Father, Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Prayer Before Meals, Prayer After Meals, as well as simple versions of a Morning Prayer and an Evening Prayer. Review them regularly so that he or she will remember them clearly next year. The exact words for each of the prayers can be found at www.FindingGod.org.