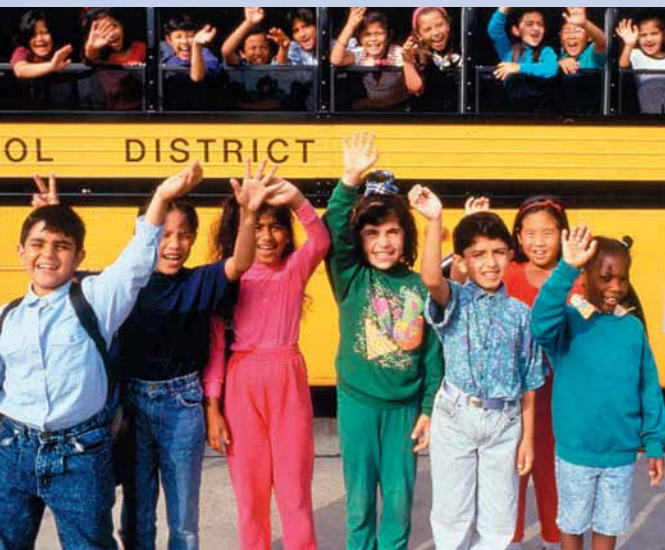


RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

We All Need Companions

Each time our children leave our homes, they enter into the real world. Along the way, they make new friends, some of whom become life-long companions. Jesus knew the importance of having companions. In choosing Peter and the other apostles and disciples, he was taking the first step in establishing the Church. In the Church and especially in our parishes, companions in faith are waiting to walk with our children on their journeys toward God.

Children's greatest influences are their parents. It is through the relationships children form within the family that they learn how to maintain relationships outside the family. By preparing your child now to make friends and to be a friend, you are giving him or her a priceless skill that will be used throughout life.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Jesus chose his companions carefully. Ask your child who his or her special friends are. What makes them such good friends? How do they help your child follow Jesus?



Spirituality in Action

With your child, think of ways that your family shows that you are followers of Jesus. Talk about people in your parish who show God's love to others.

Focus on Prayer

Your child is learning to listen to Jesus' call. Discuss what it means to be called by Jesus, and talk about how Jesus calls us through others such as parents and teachers. Light a candle, and spend some moments in silent prayer.



Hints for at Home

Make Friendship Bracelets. You will need assorted beads and craft stems. With your child, arrange the beads on the craft stem, using any color scheme you like. Talk with your child about the importance of friends in our lives. Friends care for us, share with us, teach us, and help us. Have your child give these colorful and uniquely crafted bracelets to people he or she cares about as a reminder of a friendship.

