

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



*Incontro di Maria, Mariotto Albertinelli*

## Focus on Faith

### Supporting One Another

**W**e all need the help of others to become the people God wants us to be. After Mary said yes to becoming the mother of Jesus, she received love and support from her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth saw Mary, Elizabeth shouted in joy and considered herself blessed that Mary came to visit her. Mary responded in joy with the Magnificat, her song of thanks to God. Elizabeth affirmed Mary and supported her faith in God. In the same way, we are called to support one another's faith. As parents we have the special responsibility to support our children's faith. We begin doing this by creating a positive environment in which their faith can grow.

### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

**C**onduct a mental treasure hunt with your family. One by one, think of the rooms in your home. Are there statues, pictures, books, or crosses that identify your home as Catholic? What can be done to create a more Catholic environment?

### In Our Parish

With your pastor's permission ask families to decorate bulletin boards in the church to honor Mary. Families might work together to create small works of art to show their reverence for Mary.



### Spirituality in Action

Mary provides us with an example of how God loves the less fortunate in a special way. He looked beyond "his handmaid's lowliness" and lifted her up. When we assist the poor, we are acting as God calls us to act. Anything we do for them, we do for God.

With your child establish a special box containing items that your family can donate to a shelter in your community. Place things such as mittens, hats, socks, toothpaste, toys, and books into the box and donate the contents from time to time throughout the year.

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### Focus on Prayer

**Your child has reflected on Luke 1:46–55, which contains the words of the Magnificat. Mary praised God for the great things he had done for her. Talk with your child about ways in which God has blessed your family.**