

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

Our Priorities

Francis Borgia (1510–1572) was a rich nobleman in Spain. He enjoyed being a person of wealth and high social standing. Then one day a close friend died, and Francis realized that his wealth would not last forever or buy him happiness. After his wife died, Francis became a Jesuit priest and was eventually made the head of the order. No longer focused on money and material possessions, Francis had shifted his attention toward serving God. Like Francis, we make decisions every day that teach our children where our priorities lie. They can see how important God is in our lives. If they made a list of what is important to them, where would God rank?

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Talk about the importance of God in your family life. What are the ways you show that God is a priority in your home?



The Vision of St. Francis Borgia, with Sts. Aloysius Gonzaga and Stanislaus Kostka, Antonio Salas



Hints for at Home

With your family create a Respect poster. You will need watercolor paint, a tin pan, poster board, and a permanent marker. Place the paint in the tin pan and allow each member of your family to take a turn placing his or her hand in the paint. Have each family member place a handprint on the poster board. When each hand is in place, write *Respect* on the poster with the permanent marker. Place the completed poster in a prominent place in your home to remind your family to respect one another's property, good name, and privacy.

Spirituality in Action

With your family make a pledge of peace. Such a pledge encourages respect and forgiveness and opposes the use of violence. With your family join hands in a circle of peace. Recite the pledge "We pledge to respect one another, to listen to one another, and to forgive one another. We pledge to respect all of God's creation. We pledge to oppose violence in all forms and to live our lives in peace."



Focus on Prayer

Your child has learned that the sign of peace is one way we show our care and respect for others. Notice the sign of peace the next time you are at Mass with your child. Discuss the ways in which it strengthens our ties as parishioners and community members.

