

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

Our Forgiving Father

The story of the forgiving father, or of the prodigal son, is so familiar to us that some of its most interesting elements can get lost. In the story the son asks and receives half of his father's wealth and then wastes it on his own pleasure. Realizing how good he had had it, the son returns home. His father rushes to embrace him and treats him like a king. People hearing this story in Jesus' time would have said that the father was being completely foolish. We probably think so also because the father lavishes his attention on his son, gladly accepting the son's apology! This, however, is the image of God our Father that Jesus gives to us in calling us to repentance and reconciliation. God is ready to embrace us and treat us like royalty.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss with your child the deeper meaning of forgiveness. It does not permit holding a grudge, seeking revenge, or harboring resentment. Ask your family to pray for the gift of forgiveness.



Spirituality in Action

Understanding and appreciating cultural diversity serves to strengthen community, while racism and prejudice weaken it. Learn about the countries of origin and customs of community members whose ethnicity is different from your own. You may wish to trace the origin of your own family.

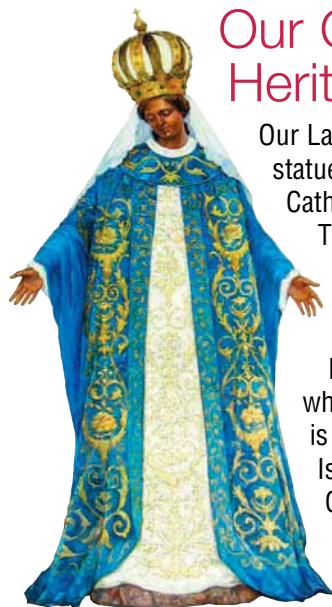
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Our Catholic Heritage

Our Lady of Africa is a bronze statue that graces the Catholic basilica in Algiers.

The poor and suffering come to ask her aid, and many have experienced cures. Muslims built the pedestal on which the statue sits. Mary is highly regarded in Islam's holy book, the Qur'an.



Focus on Prayer

Your child reflected on the story of the forgiving father (Luke 15:11–24). Jesus told this parable as a way of teaching us about God's forgiving love. Read the story with your child.

Spend a few minutes talking about what it means.

