

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

The Presence of God in Our Daily Lives

One of the ways we as parents can make our children feel secure is to have rituals that anchor their everyday lives. These are natural times when children can be reminded that God is present. Mealtime prayer is an excellent time to remember the intentions of others. Keep a card in the middle of the table on which you list current intentions and where the children can include theirs. During Lent a collection box can be placed on the table to encourage family members to make donations for people in need. These small rituals serve to remind children of the presence of God.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

What rituals anchor the spiritual life of your family? Discuss what else could be done to help you become more aware of God's presence in your everyday lives.

Spirituality in Action

Together make a list of three kind acts or good deeds that you and your child can perform for people in your neighborhood. Mark specific dates on your calendar, writing down what you will do and for whom. As you carry out your plans, discuss with your child why you are helping these people and how they might feel as a result.

Our Catholic Heritage



Matteo Ricci, S.J., Emmanuel Pereira

One of China's earliest and most influential missionaries was a Jesuit priest called Matteo Ricci (1522–1610). Father Ricci used his knowledge of cartography, mathematics, and astronomy to interest Chinese intellectuals in Western science and culture. Eventually he gained the trust of Chinese officials

and was allowed to perform his missionary work more openly. Before his death, Father Ricci established Beijing's first seminary. He was buried on its grounds, along with other prominent 17th- and 18th-century missionaries. The Chinese government celebrated the 400th anniversary of Father Ricci's arrival in Beijing in October 2001, marking improved diplomatic relations between China and the Vatican. Chinese people have always considered Father Ricci a Westerner who devoted himself to them and their culture. The memory of Father Ricci's accomplishments is building a foundation for a bridge between East and West.

Focus on Prayer

Your child learned how Jesus described the relationship between himself and his followers as that of a vine and its branches. Read the passage John 15:1–5 with your child and talk about its meaning.

Emphasize the idea that followers of Jesus “bear fruit” when they love and serve others and that all those who love Jesus are part of his great community, the Church. We are the branches, and Jesus is the vine.

