

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

The Beatitudes in Our Lives

As parents we have many opportunities to practice the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:1–10. We are poor in spirit when we recognize that we are dependent on God for help. We mourn when we are saddened at the way people suffer in the world. We act with meekness when we are slow to anger and gentle with our children in difficult times. We practice mercy when we truly forgive them. We are pure of heart when we share with our children our commitment to promote justice in the world. We have many opportunities to be peacemakers in the way we love and restore harmony while protecting the dignity of each person. The Beatitudes comprise the virtues that help us create a Christian family.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

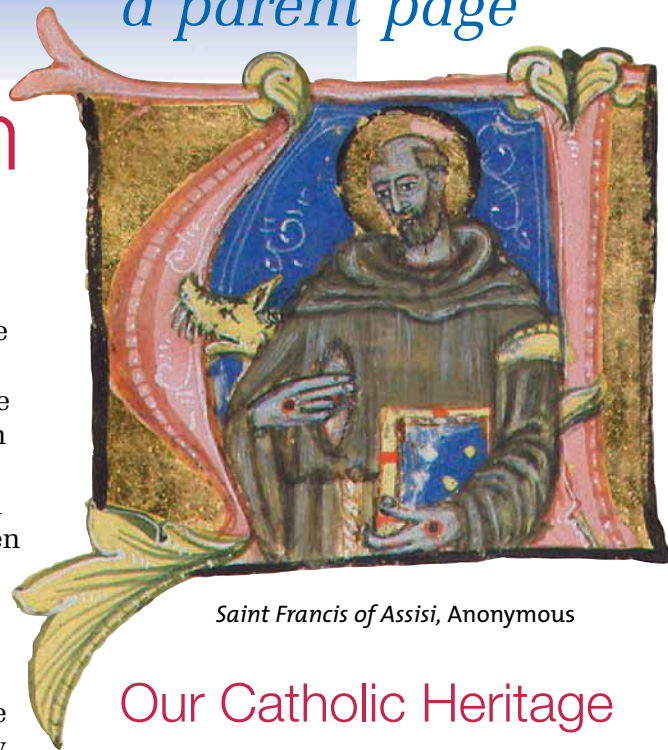
Share with your child one time when you noticed something that he or she had done that exemplified living the Beatitudes, something like forgiving a friend or sharing with someone younger. Compliment your child on his or her good Christian behavior. Let your child know that you noticed.

Hints for at Home

Create a quiet corner where family members can reflect on ways to create peace within themselves, in their parish, in the community, and in the world. Add objects that suggest peace to those in your family. Encourage each member to spend two minutes per day in the spot and to respect the quiet, peaceful time that others spend there.

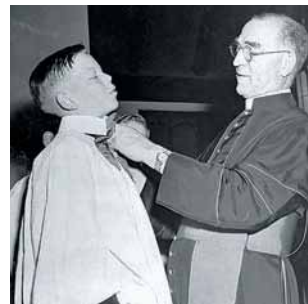


www.findinggod.com



Saint Francis of Assisi, Anonymous

Our Catholic Heritage



Father Edward Joseph Flanagan was born in Ireland in 1886 and came to America in 1904. Eight years later he became a priest and served parishes in Nebraska. Father Flanagan's works

reflect the depth of his compassion for people who are poor and those who are homeless. He started the Workingmen's Hotel, a shelter for destitute men in Omaha, Nebraska. Then, in 1917, he established Boys Town, a shelter for homeless boys. Boys Town was renamed Girls and Boys Town in 1979, when it began accepting girls. Although Father Flanagan died in 1948, his work with troubled youth continues to this day.



Focus on Prayer

Your child prayed the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis. Encourage your child to love and to pardon others for their selfish acts. Pray the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis together. You can find the words to the peace prayer attributed to Saint Francis at www.FindingGod.org.