

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

Reaching Out to Others

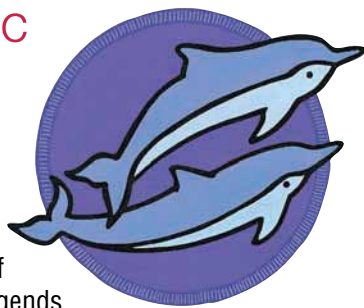
A child brought home a baby bird that had fallen from its nest. From the shape of the wing, it was obvious that it was broken. The bird would not survive. The child cried, and there was little the parents could do but share the pain. We would like to create a place for our children in which suffering could be avoided. But death and physical and emotional pain are a part of every life. How can we find meaning in the midst of suffering? In the midst of his suffering on the cross, Jesus reached out to the thief crucified next to him. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can reach out to others in troubled times. In sharing the pain of our children, we help them learn to share pain of others.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

What suffering did your family witness today—someone who fell, a neighbor who lost his job, a child rejected by playmates? In what ways can your family respond to the suffering that they see daily?

Our Catholic Heritage

The dolphin, one of the most intelligent and appealing marine animals, is a symbol of Jesus' redemption of our souls. In ancient legends, dolphins carried to heaven the souls of those who were saved. Images of dolphins have been found on ancient tombs.



Focus on Prayer

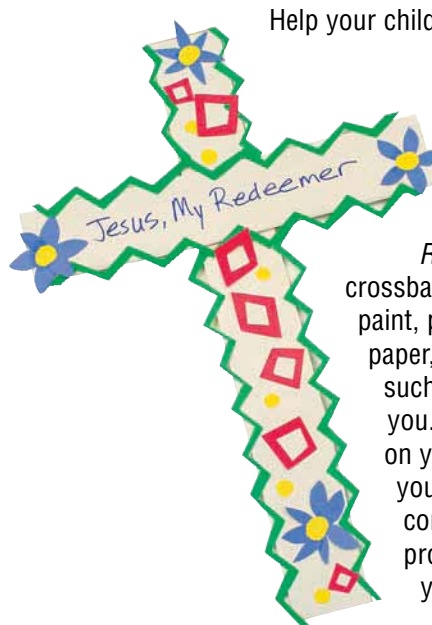
Your child prayed the Apostles' Creed. This prayer contains the central truths of the Catholic faith, which all Catholics are called to believe. Help your child memorize the Apostles' Creed by saying it together as a family.

You can find the words to the Apostles' Creed at www.FindingGod.org.



www.findinggod.com

Hints for at Home



Help your child make a simple cross out of heavy paper or poster board. It should be large enough to write *Jesus, My Redeemer* on the crossbar. Decorate it with paint, pieces of colored paper, buttons, or other such things available to you. Display the cross on your refrigerator, in your family prayer corner, or in another prominent place in your home.