

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

The Marks of Jesus' Church

Many families have particular ways to identify themselves. In Europe there is a rich tradition of crests, shields, and flags carrying a family's identifying symbols. In the Celtic world colorful tartans identify traditional family names. The Catholic Church identifies itself as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Jesus Christ is the source of unity and holiness. The Church is catholic in its mission to the world and apostolic in remaining faithful to the faith it has received from the apostles. Were people to look to your family as representative of the Catholic faith, what would they see? What characteristics of the Church would they recognize in the way you speak, act, or relate to others?

Our Catholic Heritage

The Nicene Creed is a proclamation of our beliefs that was first written by the Catholic Church during the fourth century. Its original formulation was developed at the Council of Nicaea in 325. The creed was a response to fourth-century Christians who did not believe that Jesus Christ was God. It was rewritten and formalized at the Council of Constantinople in 381. Today, Roman Catholics, Eastern Catholics, and most Protestants accept the Nicene Creed as a summary of Christian beliefs.

In Our Parish

The Church is one because the people of the Church, regardless of ethnic or national identity, are one human family. Invite a member of your parish who has been a refugee or is an immigrant to speak to your child and his or her peers. Encourage the group to ask questions about how the Catholic faith has helped the speaker to deal with the hardships of immigration.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter



Talk about any crest, traditional celebration, sign, or fabric pattern that identifies your family as coming from a particular tradition.

Share its history and why it is meaningful to you. Then brainstorm with your children about what your family would put on a crest that would show the world what you value.



www.findinggod.com

Focus on Prayer

Your child has been introduced to the Nicene Creed. Pray this together as a family. You can find the words to the Nicene Creed at www.FindingGod.org.

