

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

God in the Midst of Exile

Every person experiences what it is like to live in exile. Exile can be exclusion from the “in” crowd at school, lack of appreciation at work, or a sense of disconnection from your family. The Jewish people in the Old Testament knew what it was like to be in exile. Their Temple was destroyed. They were brought from Judah to Babylon. They had to make new lives in a strange land. It was a very difficult time, but it was also a time for understanding the mercy of God. God sent a prophet whose words “Give comfort to my people” are written in Isaiah 40:1. These words speak to us today as full of hope as they did when the prophet proclaimed them to the people.

In Our Parish

Organize a newcomer’s festival at your church. Plan a day or evening for welcoming newcomers into the community with enjoyable activities, music, and food (of course!). Encourage all of those present to give personal introductions, sharing something about their lives or



faith journeys. Include games to help break the ice, a prayer service, or a guest speaker to discuss the history of the parish.

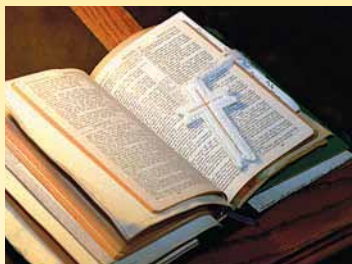
Dinnertime Conversation Starter



Recall with your child some times in the life of your family when you turned to God for hope and comfort. Discuss any special prayer or ceremony that helped in time of need.

Focus on Prayer

Your child has prayed part of Psalm 143. Pray through this psalm with your child and discuss its meaning.



Our Catholic Heritage

Four passages in the book of Isaiah are known as the Suffering Servant oracles. Although they refer to events of that particular time, they also convey the message of Jesus’ ministry and the meaning of his life, death, and resurrection. Those passages are Isaiah 42:1–4, 49:1–7, 50:4–11, and 52:13–53:12.