

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

Faith and Works

James 2:14–26 is a powerful teaching about the relationship between faith and action. James says that if a person has nothing to wear or nothing to eat and all we do is tell that person to go in peace without materially helping him or her, our good wishes are worthless. So is our faith if it does not lead to good works on behalf of others. James continues by saying that, just as the body without the spirit is dead, faith without good works is dead. An active faith is one that impels us to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable. In today's society this means not only making personal contributions to help others but also working against the social structures that keep people imprisoned in poverty.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter



With your family identify the social structures that keep people in your community trapped in poverty. What step can your family take to change the structure while also assisting the poor?



Focus on Prayer

Your child reflected on the Magnificat.

Recite this prayer as a family. You may find the exact words to this prayer at

www.FindingGod.org.

www.findinggod.com



Spirituality in Action

You have probably been the new person at work at some point in your life, so you know how difficult it can be. The next time a new person starts



at your workplace, go out of your way to welcome that person with acts of kindness for the first few weeks that he or she is there. In fact, if you happen to notice anyone who is feeling isolated or frustrated at work, do something for that person as well.

Our Catholic Heritage

On a small island in Lough Derg, Ireland, is a place of legend and pilgrimage called St. Patrick's Purgatory. According to folklore, at this island God gave Patrick the ability to see



and show others the suffering that sinners endured in purgatory. It was a kind of warning. To this day, pilgrims come to this place for a three-day retreat

of fasting and prayer. Pilgrims arrive at the island in the afternoon, having eaten nothing since midnight, and they participate in an all-night vigil.