

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

God Makes Us His Own

When we send our children to school, we make sure that their possessions are marked so that they can be identified. In ancient times those in power used signet rings to place their seal of authority on documents so that people could identify the document with the authority of the ruler. This is the image the Church uses to help us understand the meaning of the sacraments. In Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist we are sealed in the Holy Spirit. These seals identify us as belonging to God. The sacraments form us as God's people, so we can act in service to the world in the way Jesus did.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss with your family the various ways in which Jesus served the world. Choose one way your family can effectively continue a specific service that would identify you as Christians.

Our Catholic Heritage



Father James Keller (1900–1977) was a priest who believed that every individual had a contribution to make to society. In 1945 he founded the Christophers, a non-profit organization that uses print and electronic media to spread the message of hope to all people. The motto Father Keller

chose for The Christophers is "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." The Christophers' work continues today with weekly television and radio programs, a daily radio message, newspaper columns, and brochures that provide resources for facing difficult life issues. You can find more information about the Christophers and their work at www.christophers.org.

www.findinggod.com



Hints for at Home

Help your child nurture an ivy plant in your home. You will need an ivy plant, a clay pot, potting soil, paints or permanent markers, a watering can, and pruning shears.

Have your child decorate the clay pot, using the paints. Ask him or her to write *I am the vine* on the pot. Then plant the ivy in it. Water the plant regularly and invite your child to observe what happens over time. Show your child how to pull away leaves that become dried out. Use the pruning shears to show what occurs when you clip off a section of dead growth. (New growth takes place.) Relate this growth to the parable of the vine.



Focus on Prayer

Your child has reflected on the parable of the vine and on the security and comfort of knowing that Jesus holds us close to himself. Share with your child a moment when you felt Jesus was with you.

