

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

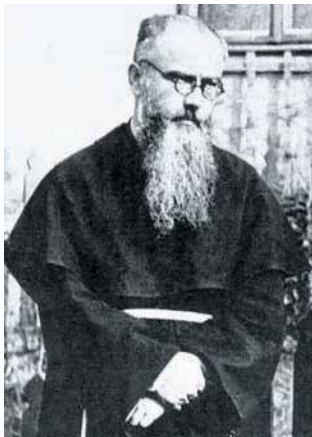
## Focus on Faith

### Francis of Assisi Makes a Choice

**S**aint Francis of Assisi was born into a wealthy family. He used his father's wealth to support a pleasure-seeking lifestyle. While a soldier, Francis was taken prisoner. In prison he reconsidered his life and determined to base his life on God. Upset because Francis sold some of his goods to rebuild a church, Francis's father complained to the bishop. The bishop told Francis that it was wrong to use his father's goods without permission. In response Francis gave everything back to his father, even his clothes, and left home. He wore only a brown cassock, belted with rope, which became the model for the Franciscan habit worn today. Francis's father did not support his call from God. When your children come to ask you to support their vocations, how will you answer?

### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

**E**xplore with your child his or her various vocation options. What are your child's hopes, inclinations, interests? How can the family support and help him or her?



### Our Catholic Heritage

Saint Maximilian Kolbe (1894–1941), a Polish priest, made a heroic choice: He offered to die in the place of someone else. He was in the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz during World War II. Ten prisoners were chosen to be killed in punishment for an escape attempt. Kolbe took the place of a younger man who had children, and he was murdered. Kolbe, a Franciscan, had been the leader of a movement to bring

people back to Jesus through Mary and had worked to spread the gospel in Japan. He was put in the camp for speaking out against the Nazis.



Saint Francis, Master of Saint Francis

### Spirituality in Action

Make your family active in its charity by adopting a needy family in your parish. You could take the family to dinner occasionally and give its members gifts at the holidays.



### Focus on Prayer

Pray the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis together as a family. You will find this prayer at [www.FindingGod.org](http://www.FindingGod.org). Afterward, focus on the good choices your child has made this week. Let your child know that you noticed and support these choices.

[www.findinggod.com](http://www.findinggod.com)