

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



## Focus on Faith

### An Example of Faith

**A** businessman looked out his window every morning at 7:30. He saw the same woman walking up the hill to the Catholic Church for Mass. He had no time for God in his life. Everyone in his circle was agnostic. But every day, rain or shine, this woman passed by his window. What was it that gave her such faith and devotion? He waited for the day when she would miss Mass. Then, one morning an especially vicious ice storm hit the area. Would this be the day? The woman could not possibly walk up the hill. The businessman was stunned, though, when he saw her crawling up the hill, trying not to slip on the ice. He was so moved at the sight of the woman's determination and devotion that he told his astonished family that he was going to become Catholic. One woman's faith showed him what was missing in his life.

## Our Catholic Heritage



Holy wells, which are especially prevalent throughout Great Britain and Ireland, have been used for hundreds of years as places of worship and veneration. Some wells predate the birth of Christ and were used originally as places of pagan worship. As Christianity spread

throughout the region, the wells were converted quickly to sites associated with Christianity. Many people believe the water from these wells has healing properties. For hundreds of years, they have made pilgrimages to the wells to drink or bathe in the sacred water. Offerings such as coins and clothing can be found at many of these wells. Some of the more famous wells are St. Winifred's in Wales and St. Feidhlimh's in Ireland.

### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

**S**peak with your child about faithfulness—from beginning each day with prayer to attending Mass to caring for the needs of others—and the power of setting a good example.



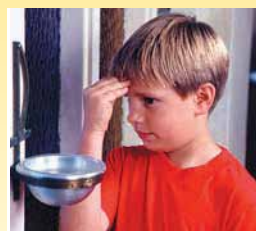
## In Our Parish

Take your child to a Baptism during the Easter Vigil or on another occasion. Point out symbols to look for, such as water (new life), oil (strength), white garment (purity), and the Baptismal candle (light of Christ).

While in the church, take this opportunity to fill a small jar with holy water, which you can keep in your home. Talk with your child about how holy water is a reminder of Baptism.

## Focus on Prayer

**Your child is learning the significance of using holy water while praying the Sign of the Cross: together they are a reminder of our Baptism. Prompt your child to use holy water to bless himself or herself when entering or exiting the church.**



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