

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

New Life in God

From the window of their house, the mother and her children could see a pair of birds building a new nest. As time passed, they could see tiny eggs in the nest and the careful way they were kept warm. They noticed how the birds chirped in warning if an animal came too close. Then tiny birds came out of their shells. As spring turned into summer, the tiny birds grew and learned how to fly. One day they were gone, leaving the empty nest behind. Nature has many examples of life's transitions. As Christians, we celebrate these transitions in our spiritual lives in the sacraments. The sacraments that bring us new life in God are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Hints for at Home

With your child create a "Jesus, Light My Way" switch-plate cover for a light switch. You will need a plain switch-plate cover, a permanent marker, and stickers, sequins, and other decorative items. Have your child use the marker to write *Jesus, light my way* on the switch-plate cover. Then have him or her use



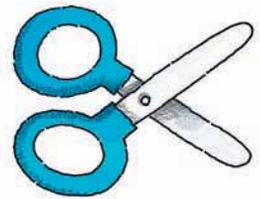
the stickers, sequins, and other items to decorate the plate. Attach the completed plate in a prominent room in your home.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

What significant transitions or changes are your family facing? Explain to your child how the sacraments will provide the grace to help the family cope with these changes.

Spirituality in Action

Jesus lived a life of service. Guide your child to find new ways to help others. Begin a family service project for the



children's ward of a local hospital. With your family create placemats to deliver to the children there. You will need cardboard, scissors, fabric, glue, construction paper, permanent markers, and clear adhesive or laminate covering. Use the cardboard to form the bottom of the placemat. Cut the fabric to fit over the cardboard and glue it on top of the cardboard. Then write cheerful greetings on the construction paper and glue it to the fabric. Place the clear covering over the top of the placemat. Deliver the finished products to the children's ward.

Focus on Prayer

Share with your child the story of his or her Baptism. Look at photos or videos of the Baptism and explain how you felt on the day they were taken. With your child praise Jesus for the new life he gives us.

