

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Painting of the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus, St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church of Chicago

Focus on Faith

Unity in Diversity

America has often been called a melting pot for people of many ethnic origins. Perhaps the image of a salad bowl might be more fitting, as each distinct flavor adds to the flavor of the whole. The Catholic Church is also a community of diverse cultures. Along with the experience of the Roman Catholic Church, there are some 20 Eastern Catholic churches celebrating the liturgy in languages such as Armenian, Coptic, Arabic, and Malayan. In the Roman Catholic Church, diverse spiritualities are clustered around the mission of religious orders such as the Passionists, the Dominicans, and the Jesuits. This diversity is possible because the central core of Catholic teaching within the apostolic tradition finds its unity in the pope and the bishops as successors to the apostles.

Our Catholic Heritage

The motto of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and the Jesuits is *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*. Abbreviated AMDG, it means "For the greater glory of God." This motto refers to the Jesuit way of deciding which action, from an array of many good actions, to take. The action to take is the one that will most reveal God's glory.

Hints for at Home

Your child is learning about the diversity of peoples who make up the living Church. With your child attend a service that reflects a tradition different from your own. It might be a liturgy in an Eastern Catholic church, such as a Ukrainian or an Armenian church, or a liturgy in a different language. Talk about how the service shows the diversity and unity in the Church.



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Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Share with your children the different experiences of Catholic spirituality that you have had—for example, a retreat experience with a particular religious community, participation in a Catholic youth rally, or a role in a Christmas pageant or the living Stations of the Cross.

Focus on Prayer

In this session your child prayed the Apostles' Creed, which is a prayer that unites us in faith. Say the prayer aloud with all the members of your family, holding hands as a sign of being united in belief. You can find the exact words for the Apostles' Creed at www.FindingGod.org.

