

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

Every Child Is Special

Sibling rivalry is common in all families. In the Old Testament, Isaac and Rebecca had the problem with their twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The boys competed for their father's affection and the right for his blessing. Through trickery and with the help of Rebecca, Jacob gained Isaac's blessing but lost his family. He fled for his life when Esau sought revenge. It is easy for parents to make comparisons between their children. The subtle hints convey that one child's behavior and gifts meet with approval while those of the others somehow fall short. Making any comparisons between children in a way that sets them against one another damages family solidarity. Each child is unique and blessed by God. Celebrate that uniqueness in special and noncompetitive ways.



Dinnertime Conversation Starter

One evening, set your child's place at the table with a unique or decorative plate. Tell him or her that your family recognizes how special he or she is to the family. Invite each family member to mention one gift that the child brings to the family. Honor a different family member each night.



Hints for at Home

Help your child to create a faith family tree. On a large sheet of paper, write the names of people who have had a significant impact on the faith life of your family. Include family members, teachers, priests—even writers or artists who are in some way connected to your family's practice of the Catholic faith. Include any ethnic or regional influences as well. Share with one another stories about how these persons affected your family faith life.



Our Catholic Heritage

Saint John Neumann is entombed at St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia, where his body rests within a glass encasement under the main altar of the lower church. To this day, St. Peter's Church is staffed by the same brotherhood of Redemptorists that founded the church. Catholics from around the world still journey to St. Peter's Church to see the National Shrine of Saint John Neumann. In 1979, when Pope John Paul II visited Philadelphia, he too visited the shrine.

www.findinggod.com

Focus on Prayer

Your child is reviewing the Morning Offering. Say this prayer together before he or she leaves for school to help with memorization. You can find the words for the Morning Offering at www.FindingGod.org.

