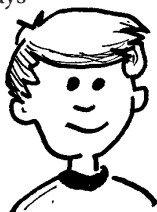




## Thoughtful Moments

### Manners matter

Courtesy and good manners are simple and effective ways to carry out the command of Jesus love other people. Holding the door for someone, saying "please" or "thank you, or picking up an item someone else has dropped is treating others with love, just as Jesus asked.

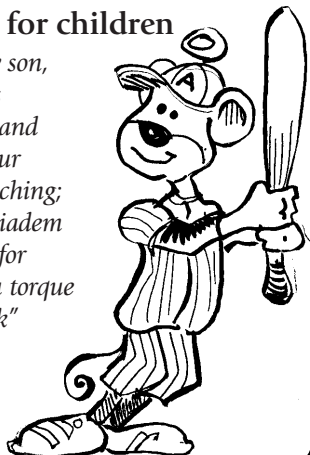


### "The only kid who ..."

Do your children complain about not being allowed to do all that their friends are allowed to do? The truth is, Christian parents know that sin is much more available to children at younger ages these days. To keep our children strong, limits are a parent's best tool. We know that children are ours only for a short while and then we will answer to their real Father.

### Advice for children

*"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; A graceful diadem will they be for your head; a torque for your neck" (Proverbs 1:8-9).*



## Mary, the perfect model for all parents

Although Mary was the mother of Jesus, her life was difficult and her suffering was great. That's why she understands our struggles and sympathizes with our petitions to her. She is the perfect model for all parents.

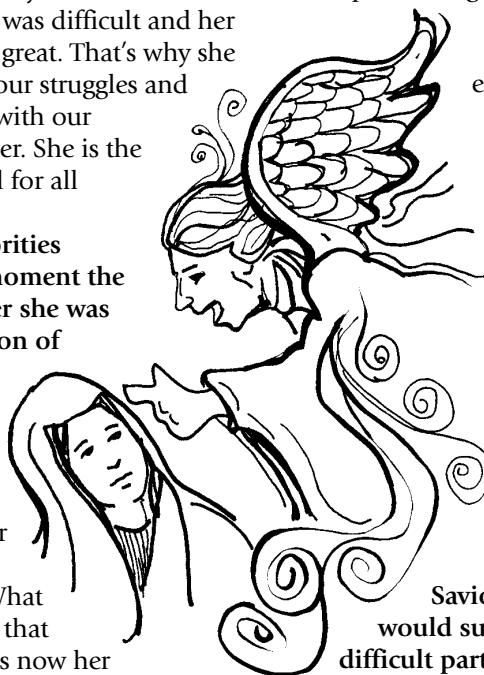
Mary's priorities shifted the moment the angel told her she was to bear the Son of God (Luke 1:28-35). It didn't matter that she wasn't yet married or that people would talk. What mattered was that a little life was now her responsibility. She had to respond.

Imagine the fear Mary felt when Herod issued a death sentence for Jesus (Matthew 2:13-15). Without

questioning God's instructions, Mary and Joseph fled, leaving everything behind, to ensure the safety of their son.

Raising any child is hard but to be responsible for the Savior must have been overwhelming at times. When Jesus was 12, he was lost for three days until they found him in the temple (Luke 2:41-49). It made sense later, but at the time Mary grieved and blamed herself.

As the mother of the Savior, Mary knew her child would suffer and that's the most difficult part of parenting. Being prepared didn't make it any easier to watch her son die. But Mary had complete trust in God. That makes her the perfect model for all parents.

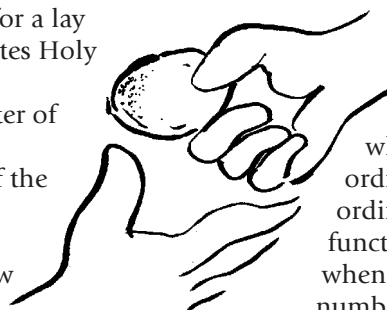


## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## What is a Eucharistic Minister?

The accurate title for a lay person who distributes Holy Communion is Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. The Ordinary Minister of the Eucharist is a priest, deacon, or bishop.

A bishop may allow the training and commissioning of suitable lay

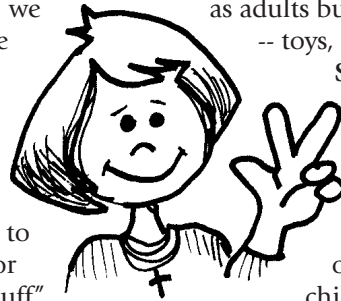


people as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist in his diocese when there is a lack of ordinary ministers, when an ordinary minister can't function because of ill health, or when there is an unwieldy number of communicants. The preference is for Ordinary Ministers.

## Teach three important life lessons

As responsible parents, we do all we can to prepare children for adult life. We support learning, we introduce sports or other activities, and save for college as well as we can. Even more important is what we do to prepare them for Heaven. Teaching holiness is critical:

**Detachment:** The array of expensive gadgets marketed to children these days is dizzying. Yet the more we give our children to occupy their time, the less time they have for God. Plus, we teach them that acquiring "stuff"



is more important than acquiring faith. Stuff won't help them as adults but faith will. Instead, help children keep possessions -- toys, clothing, electronics, etc. -- to a minimum.

**Sacraments:** Never missing Mass on Sunday is crucial to building faith habits that last. Make regular visits to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, too, so children experience God's forgiveness. That also helps them learn to offer forgiveness.

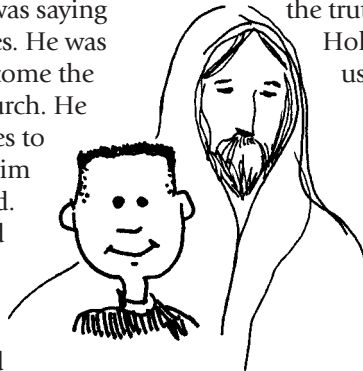
**Keeping company:** Our friends can build us up or tear us down. Jesus chose his carefully. Teach children to do the same.

### Scripture LESSON

## John 14:15-21; I will not leave you.

Like a parent sending children off into the world, Jesus was saying farewell to his disciples. He was preparing them to become the foundation of his Church. He was asking his disciples to be the ones to bring him to the rest of the world. Jesus knew that would be difficult, so he made two powerful promises:

First, Jesus promised that the disciples would always have the help of an Advocate -- the Holy Spirit. He told them that the gift of the Holy Spirit would be poured out on his



followers to help them (and us) see the truth of God's love for us. The Holy Spirit continues to guide us today.

Second, he promised that even though he was going away, he would never leave us.

**What can a parent do?**

We can't see Jesus but we know he is with us. Remind children that when we live our love

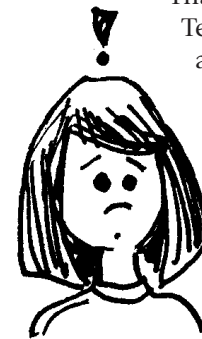
for God by obeying his commandments and loving others, we show Jesus to the entire world, just as he asked. And he truly is always with us.

### Parent TALK

I got so tired of nagging Tessa to do her chores that I decided to try something different.

That Saturday, I asked Tessa to do her chores and gave a deadline.

When the jobs weren't done by the deadline, I did them. Tessa was thrilled to come down for dinner and find her jobs completed.



The next night was the parish youth group Easter celebration. When she came down, I told Tessa she wasn't going. "You didn't do your chores yesterday, so you won't be going to the Easter party tonight." She was stunned. "But you didn't remind me," she whined. "Sure I did," I said. "I asked you do to your chores," I said. "From now on, that's all I'm going to say. If you don't do them, there will be consequences," and the rest of us went to the party while she stayed with a babysitter.

Here's hoping it works.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**May 25 – St. Bede the Venerable (735).** Honored as a saint during his lifetime, he was an extraordinary scholar and writer. From the time of his ordination at 30 till his death, he was occupied with learning, writing and teaching.

**May 25 – Pope St. Gregory VII (1085).** During dark days for the Church, St. Gregory worked to eliminate simony (buying and selling of sacred offices), unlawful marriages of the clergy, and lay investiture (kings and nobles appointing Church officials). St. Gregory fought attacks on

the authority of the Church for which he suffered and died in exile.

**May 26 – St. Philip Neri (1595).** Founder of the Oratorians, where reading, singing, and charitable works were practiced. He is remembered for his humor and his joyful love of God.

**May 27 – St. Augustine of Canterbury (605).** Augustine persevered as a missionary in rough and dangerous times in England. Wisely, he purified and retained local customs into Christian rites. His efforts resulted in the conversion of England after his death.



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