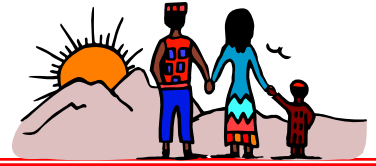




Faith-Full Families



Resources and News for the Church of the Home
Archdiocese of Baltimore - Division of Evangelization and Catechesis
May 2009 -- Volume 6, Number 4

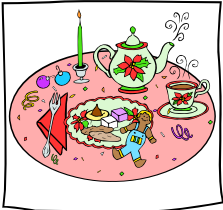


Table Talk Conversation Starters

I feel renewed
when I do _____.

Can you
remember a time
when it felt great
to come home?

The best
memory I have
of a vacation is _____.

What can we do
in our house or
yard to help the
environment?

I wish we could
visit _____.

My plan for
relaxing and
rejuvenating this
summer starts
with _____.

Have an “Ordinary” Summer!

Summer and early fall, the weeks that fall between Easter Time and Advent, are part of Ordinary Time in the Church year. We think ordinary means “nothing special,” but it really should remind us of God’s loving activity-- Everyday!

In our ordinary, everyday lives, we practice the essential qualities of our Christian faith. Daily, we celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings. These events aren’t as famous as Christmas or Lent, but they are holy for us.

We also experience God’s care for us in difficult times the everyone experiences sometime in life: moving, illness, or lose a loved one (see the Family Activity Pages for a resource).

Rededicate yourself to holy practices in your home life: mealtime prayer, Sunday Mass (even when traveling), serving others (like elderly neighbors or overworked moms).

Lord, renew our appreciation for the holy that hides in the ordinary.

FROM YOUR PARISH..

Paste your parish or school news here!!

For formatting assistance, contact Division of Evangelization & Catechesis, 410-547-5420 or lprzybysz@archbalt.org

Plan a Stay-cation!



Save money and stress by giving a little extra thought to the fun things your family can enjoy without going far or spending much. Invite another family to join you, and build stronger friendships for all ages.

With a little planning, your family can experience renewal and relaxation. Vacation is also a state of mind! Here is an idea for family fun that children can help plan and organize:

Mystery Lunch: Have lunch at a park. Every person packs a surprise lunch for one other person. Include a friendly note and one Bible quote to share with your lunch buddy. (You may want to draw names from a hat.) Bring along the baseball gloves, badminton set, or Frisbees and make an afternoon of it. Use the **Conversation Starters** on this page.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Catholic Advocacy Network

Get directly involved in state and federal policy matters impacting families: **Healthy Care, Poverty, Immigration, Abortion, End-of-Life issues, Stem Cell Research, Education, and Marriage.**

Receive direct e-mail contact on important issues before the legislature, from which you will be able to immediately contact your elected officials by email. Go to www.mdccathcon.org and click on Catholic Advocacy Network.

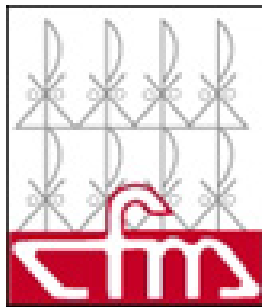


Hope and Healing After Abortion

If you or a friend are hurting from an abortion, confidential and compassionate counseling and support are available from Project RACHEL. 410-354-6900 or 1-800-286-4224 www.project-rachel.net

Take the Time for Family!

Join Christian Family Movement, Catholic lay organization, now celebrating 60 years of helping families network with others for faith, friends, and fun.



Start a small group in your parish. Receive program books and tips for gathering a few friends to build family faith and Christian community. Great for mixed-church families, since it starts in your home!

Visit www.cfm.org or call Archdiocese of Baltimore Marriage and Family Enrichment at 410-547-5420 to get an **Easy Starter Kit** that has all you need to get a group going, featuring simple program, *Taking the Time to Make a Difference*.



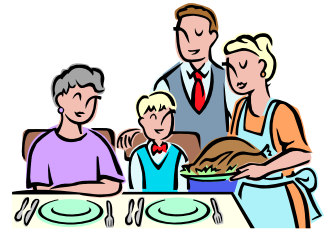
Visit www.foryourmarriage.org

Different Churches, One Family

What shape does your faith take in your ordinary life?

Many families are from mixed faith traditions, but they want to build a family life of faith. Whatever their church affiliation, Christians of all kinds can share many faith practices. **Christian practices** are things Christian people do together over time to address fundamental human needs in the light of and in response to God's grace to all creation through Christ Jesus. Here are some that people have named:

- Honoring the body
- Household economics
- Hospitality
- Giving testimony
- Saying Yes and saying No
- Discernment
- Keeping Sabbath
- Forgiveness
- Healing
- Dying well
- Singing our lives



For more about Christian faith practices, visit *Practicing Our Faith* <http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>

Reflection Questions:

- How do these practices evident in your own life?
- What other practices could you name?

FAMILY ACTIVITY: Draw a map of your home and mark where your family is doing these Christian practices. What would you like to try?

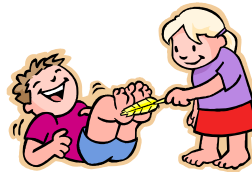
Faith-Full Families e-Newsletter is published quarterly for families across the lifespan by the Archdiocese of Baltimore Division of Evangelization and Catechesis in cooperation with the Archdiocesan Family Ministry Network. Parishes and schools are invited to add their own news and distribute it to their families.

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Su Familia y La Pérdida

Cuando perdemos a un ser querido, especialmente dentro de la familia, todo nuestro mundo cambia. Hay un vacío que de ninguna manera se puede llenar. Los extrañamos; queremos hablar con ellos; queremos sentir su amor y su apoyo. Pero ya no están con nosotros, y de repente sentimos miedo de que los vamos a olvidar. Es importante que hagámos todo lo que podámos para mantener su memoria viva entre nosotros.



1. Un pariente contando una historia a los niños del ser amado fallecido.
2. Una mesa de merienda con la familia alrededor y un lugar vacío.
3. Niños riendo – está bien divertirse.
4. Vela y Biblia – hablar de la comunión de los Santos.

Piénsenlo Bien

Compartan con sus padres una historia favorita del que falleció. _____

Digan algo divertido que sucedió referente a ellos. _____

Una cosa por la que dan gracias que se debe a ellos. _____

Actúen

Escriban una oración corta en honor a su ser amado que a fallecido. Expongan una foto.

Escritura

“En mi angustia aclamo al Señor,

Recursos

Libros: *Straight Talk About Death for Teenagers* (Platica Recta Acerca de la Muerte para Adolescentes por Earl A. Grollman

Tear Soup (Sopa de Lagrimas) por Pat Schwiebert y Chuck De Klyen

Magazine: (para adultos) “Grief Digest” (Resumen de Pesar)

Website: www.adec.org.

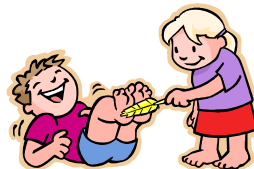


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Your Family and Loss

When we lose a loved one, especially in the family, our whole world changes. There is an emptiness that somehow cannot be filled. We miss them; we want to talk to them; we want to feel their love and support. But they are not with us any longer and we suddenly fear we are going to forget them. It's important that we do everything we can to keep their memory alive within us.



1. Parent telling story to children about the deceased loved one
2. Dinner table with family around it with one place missing
3. Children laughing—having fun is still OK
4. Candle and Bible—talking about the Communion of Saints

Think It Through

Share with your parents your favorite story about the one who died _____

Tell something funny that happened in regard to them _____

One thing you are thankful for because of them _____

Act

Write a short prayer in honor of your loved one who has died. Display their photo.

Scripture

“In my distress I cry to the Lord, that he may answer me.” (Ps. 120:1)

Resources:

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