

Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

Parish Life! from OSV



News and resources for your parish

October 2007

Welcome to **Parish Life!** from Our Sunday Visitor.

Welcome to **Parish Life!** from Our Sunday Visitor. As a parish leader who has ordered from Our Sunday Visitor in the past, you're receiving this seventh edition of our special enewsletter just for parishes! Each month you'll find timely content, practical information, and insightful inspiration delivered right to your inbox. We'd love to hear from you as well, so please e-mail us with questions or topics you would like to see discussed in future editions: yyoung@osv.com.

To continue receiving this monthly enewsletter, you need do nothing. To unsubscribe, please follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

Feel free to forward this email to a friend who might be interested.

The path to sainthood

by Lorene Hanley Duquin

Did it ever occur to you that working in a parish is your personal pathway to heaven? But like any path to heaven, the way is strewn with trials and temptations:

- The irritating parishioner who rubs you the wrong way.
- The frustration of not having enough money or volunteers.
- The worry over whether anyone will show up for the next parish event.
- The problems caused by gossip and negativity.

How would a saint handle these difficulties? Answer that question and you've placed yourself on the path to heaven. For example:

- A saint recognizes that God loves everyone - even the irritating parishioner.
- A saint trusts that the Holy Spirit will either meet the need for money and volunteers or offer the inspiration to find a different way of doing things with fewer resources.
- A saint understands that if only a few people show up for an event it means that those people needed the individual attention.
- A saint stands up for the truth in the face of gossip and negativity.

It's not always easy to do God's work, but that's what saints are called to do. Saints didn't always do it perfectly, and neither will you. The important thing is to keep trying.

Here are some simple prayers to help you throughout the day as you make your way along the pathway to heaven.

Morning Offering

Lord, I offer you this day, and everything I think, do and say. Amen.

Breathing Prayer

Breathe in God's love, and breathe out anything in you that is not of God. Imagine that God's love is flowing through you to every part of your body. Amen.

Prayer of Surrender

Lord, help me to remember that you are in charge. Help me to do your will. Amen.

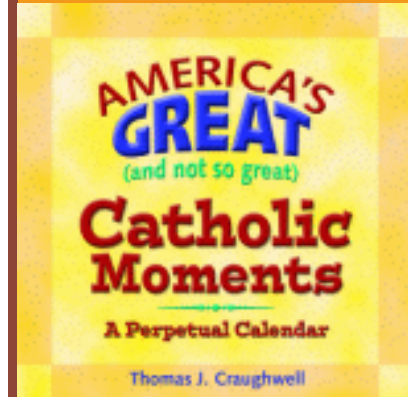
Teaching Catholic Kids: Apostolic Role Models

October's online update of Teaching Catholic Kids follows the lead of Pope Benedict XVI in his book "The Apostles" by urging catechists and students to examine the lives of the apostles. With specific looks at St. James and St. Peter, TCK leads kids into naming personality traits of each apostle and examining how those traits can be used for good ... or for bad. And Mary Lou Rosien tells catechists and kids how best to stand up for good Catholic values while attending public school. Free downloads and articles. [Click here to visit the Teaching Catholic Kids web site»](#)

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Catholic Moments



October 30, 1683

Mass is offered for the first time in New York
Thomas Dongan, the first (and last) Catholic colonial governor of New York, brought three Jesuit priests with him. Their first Mass was celebrated in Fort James, where the U.S. Customs House now stands in Lower Manhattan. Sadly, after Dongan's patron, King James II, was deposed in 1688, the colony's old anti-Catholic laws came back in force.

Quick Links

www.OSV.com

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White

7 Steps to Becoming
Financially Free Small
Group Study Program

New VBS program:
Great Bible Reef

Technologically Speaking



Technology can be a wonderful thing - but it can also be scary for parents, especially when it seems like their kids no more about how to use new media technology better than they can. Here are some tips to help parents understand that there are steps they can take to understand and control what their kids are into.

Six Tips for Internet Safety

1. Pay Attention

If you do nothing else, pay attention to what your kids are doing. A pinch of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Visit the websites your children visit. You might not be excited about going to an online game forum, TV chat room, or celebrity MySpace page, but you need to check them out to be able to warn of potentially dangerous situations.

2. Keep It in the Open

If everyone in the family can see what's on the computer, kids will be less likely to try to view inappropriate material. Especially keep computers out of bedrooms where monitoring is more difficult. If your kid has a laptop with wireless, insist they use it in a public space like the kitchen or family room.

3. Schedule Internet Time

You wouldn't let your kids watch all the TV they want or eat all the candy they desire, so treat the internet the same way. Schedule times when kids can be online and don't be afraid to turn the computer off when the time is up. (Don't let "I have to do research for homework" become an excuse for unlimited surfing!)

4. Never Talk to Strangers

Tell your children not to give out their real names, post their pictures, or list their addresses, phone number, school, or any other personal information on the Internet, not even their MySpace pages.

5. Pull the Plug on Porn

Sometimes even the most innocent clicks can lead to porn sites. Making sure your kids are aware of this is vital. If such a site should pop up, tell your kids to immediately shut off the monitor and get you. Having them try to navigate away from the website often results in increased exposure since the sites are designed to be self-perpetuating.

6. Be a Parent!

Let your kids know what the rules are regarding the Internet and don't be afraid to enforce them. Kids may object, but in the end they appreciate parents who know how to set reasonable boundaries. In addition, remind your kids that even if you don't see what they are doing, God does. The same standards of language, behavior, and conduct that you have set for your home apply to cyberlife.

- From "Catholic Parent Know-How: The Internet"

Register to win free programs and materials for YOUR parish

Advent: Just Around the Corner

As the calendar year moves into the last quarter, you no doubt are starting to think about the Advent season. For a four-week plan on how to implement an approach of wait, convert, hope, see Our Sunday Visitor's pamphlet "How to Celebrate Advent."

From the pamphlet: "The First Week: ... Every one of us has some part of our lives that yearns for light, that is in deep need of reconciliation, or that feels lost. A glance at newspaper headlines tells us how great is the need of this broken world. *Come, Lord Jesus!* will probably be an easy prayer for this week."

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