

RESOURCES FOR FAMILY CATECHESIS: SHARING FAITH AT HOME

The resources listed here are recommended for families who wish to enrich the spiritual growth of the family.

A telephone number/website for ordering each item is included.

INFOMEDIA

ADVENT - A TIME TO HOPE (Twenty Third Publications 1-800-321-0411) (20 min)
Family activities, such as Christmas shopping and card writing, reveal a spirituality that can teach us about Advent. We live in a hectic world and Christmas is a busy time, but God calls us from within this world to witness to the presence of Christ.

ADVENTURES FROM THE BOOK OF VIRTUES (PBS For Kids) 6 VC 30 min ea.
For Parents and Pre-school children. Available from Barnes and Noble 1-800-THE-BOOK (www.bn.com)

VOL. I COURAGE:

Featuring William Tell and other stories. Having lost her confidence after falling during a race, young Annie learns that we become brave only through acts of courage.

VOL. II HONESTY:

Featuring the Indian Princess, George Washington and the Cherry Tree. To keep from being blamed for breaking his dad's camera, young Zach concocts a story. These tales of honesty help show him the error of telling lies.

VOL. III COMPASSION:

Featuring Androcles and the Lion, The Good Samaritan, and more. Zach's indifference to a family's loss of their home in a fire is reversed when he hears the Greek legend of Androcles, and the Biblical story of the Good Samaritan

VOL. IV WORK:

Featuring Tom Sawyer Gives Up the Brush, and How the Camel got His Hump. After a raging storm, Sock shows no interest in helping his friends clear up the debris till he learns the value of cooperation in these classic tales.

VOL. V RESPONSIBILITY:

Featuring King Alfred and the Cakes. When Annie impulsively wrecks her new bike during a race, she learns the consequences of irresponsibility courtesy of Plato and other authors.

VOL. VI SELF-DISCIPLINE:

Featuring the Magic Thread, The Golden Touch and more. When Zach's preoccupation with earning money spins out of control, his friends draw parallels between his behavior and the fate which befell the gold-hungry King Midas.

VOL. VII FRIENDSHIP:

Featuring Why Frog and Snake Don't Play Together, and more. Annie realizes that friendship is about what you give, not what you have, after a fair weather friend jilts her before a canoe trip.

VOL. VIII GENEROSITY:

Featuring Old Mr. Rabbit's Thanksgiving Dinner, Rocking Horse Land and more. When Zach and Annie decide to deliver food to a homeless shelter they get

caught up in planning their rewards. Plato helps them discover the true spirit of giving in Rocking Horse Land.

VOL. IX HUMILITY:

Featuring The Emperor's New Clothes and an appreciation for the taste of "humble pie" in King Canute at the Seashore and Phaeton. When Annie is elected class president, she lets her newfound power go to her head, prompting a lesson in leadership from Plato.

VOL. X FAITH:

Featuring Daniel and the Lion's Den, Harriet Tubman, The Twenty-Third Psalm. Annie's faith is put to the test after her friend dies unexpectedly, leaving her feeling alone and bewildered. Plato and the crew share stories of faith and perseverance helping her see that since god is with us we are never alone.

ALWAYS REMEMBER SERIES (Benziger/Glencoe: Peoria, IL) 1-800-551-8766

20 min ea.

These videos are a special faith component of *COME FOLLOW ME* and *SHARE THE JOY* religion text book series. Grades 1-6 have four segments, and grades 7-8 have six segments. The tapes are recommended for Home Schooling Families. The actors dressed as the saints in each video review the curriculum of that level with the learner.

ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE BIBLE (NEST Family Entertainment) 1-800-447-5958 (www.NestFamily.com) For Parents and Pre-school and Elementary school children.

(30 min ea)

This is a series of stories from the Old Testament designed for home intergenerational viewing. Each video tells the story of one of the important people from the Old Testament. The series includes parent child workbooks for each video.

Elijah	Elisha
Samuel	Ruth
Solomon	Maccabees: The Story of Hanukka
Abraham & Isaac	Joseph In Egypt
Joseph's Reunion	Moses
Daniel	Music Video-Volume 1

ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

This is a series of stories designed for parents and children to view together at home. The series tells the story of Jesus from his birth to his death, resurrection and ascension. It also includes videos on the ministry of Paul. There are also workbooks for home use by parent and child together.

The King is Born	John the Baptist
The Prodigal Son	The Good Samaritan
The Miracles of Jesus	Treasures in Heaven
The Kingdom of Heaven	The Righteous Judge
Forgive Us our Debts	He is Risen
Paul of Tarsus	

BERENSTEIN BEARS, THE Video and Books (Barnes and Noble 1-800-THE-BOOK
(www.bn.com))

This series is recommended for children and parents to view or read together. The ideal age for its use would be 3 to 7 years old with children a little older sharing their life experiences with the younger children. The Bears a family of mother, father, sister and brother live in modest surrounding among animals similar to themselves. Like all families, life becomes difficult and decisions pertaining to morals, feelings, everyday events and many more things come across their path. The relationship of the whole family comes into play and to life with the Bears. Children and parents can learn from any one of the videos they watch together.

BOYS TOWN VIDEOS FOR PARENTS (Boystown Press) 1-800-282-6657
(www.girlsandboystown.org/btpress)

A series for parents which addresses particular problems and offers solutions.

You Want Me to Help with Housework? No Way! (14 min)

Parents learn a systematic way to teach children to help out more around the house.

Take Time to be a Family (13 min)

Holding successful family meetings can help improve your family's communication and planning.

Catch 'em being Good (10 min)

"Happier Kids, Happier Parents Through Effective Praise" shows parents how to break the cycle of criticism and concentrate on the good things their children are doing, thereby making everyone in the family happier.

I Can't Decide! What Should I Do? (15min)

This practical video shows parents a method to use in helping pre-adolescents and teens sort through problems and make good decisions.

Setting Your Child Up for Success, Anticipating and Preventing Problems (12min)

This video offers practical advice for parents to help them enable their children to anticipate events and plan ahead for handling difficult situations successfully.

Negotiating Within the Family, You and Your Child Can Both Get What You Want (14 in)

An excellent video which teaches parents concrete steps for negotiating and using a written contract to assist children in achieving goals. The technique is best used with pre-adolescents and teens

I'm Not Everybody - Helping Your Child Stand Up to Peer Pressure (12 min)

This video offers practical and detailed ways parents can help their children deal with peer pressure.

A Change for the Better - Teaching Corrective Behavior (11 min)

Concrete suggestions for helping parents not only correct a child's misbehavior, but lead him/her to a better, more acceptable way of acting.

It's Great to be Me! Increasing Your Child's Self-Esteem (12 min)

Parents are shown practical, easy to learn concepts that will allow them to have an impact on their child's self-esteem. This is an excellent video for all parents.

No I Won't! And You Can't Make Me! (13 min)

Parents are given ways of dealing with anger in the family. The video provides ways to deal with children's defiance, sarcasm and back talk, which can be used with children as young as four and developed through the teen years.

Homework! I'll Do It Later! (16 min)

This video offers five concrete suggestions for parents to learn and use to help their children learn good homework skills.

EASTER SEASON: A TIME TO REMEMBER (Twenty Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411 (20 min)

Parents experience a “letting go” as their children grow into adulthood and begin a new life. But parents also learn that memory will hold a family together despite moves or transitions.

FAMILY SPIRITUALITY (Twenty Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411 (30 min)

Insightful observations and reflections on building a healthy faith life within the family by Cathy Chesto.

FIRST COMES LOVE (Project Reality) 1-847-729-3298 (info@projectreality.org) (27 min) For Parents and elementary school and teenage children.

This excellent video gives an explanation of what real love is and goes on to explain the difference between committed love and sex. There is a review of the reasons young people today have sex (peer pressure, pleasure, fun, everybody’s doing it, to be cool, popularity, they think they are “in love”). The video contains a great deal of medical information, pertinent statistics and excellent dramatic vignettes. In addition, there is a focus on the emotional aspects of sex as played out in both casual and committed relationships. There is an on-going theme of: “First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes the baby in the baby carriage!” It is, however, a very up-to-date video with an appealing rap song in the background and a strong message of abstinence-until-marriage. There is a discussion guide and a handout which can be duplicated.

“HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?” (Mass Media Ministries) Can be purchased through www.amazon.com (25 min)

This is delightful film for parents or for parents and pre-school children to watch together before and after new babies join the family. It gives some good ideas on how older children can begin to relate to the new baby. It is filmed through the eyes of young children.

HOLIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS (Twenty-Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411

For parents and pre-school and elementary school children. The family will be treated to an appropriate story that will enrich their appreciation of that particular month's celebration, as it teaches a valuable moral lesson. ALL VIDEOS INCLUDE GUIDE WITH ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS.

The Pumpkin Who Was Not a Squash (10 min, Fall, Halloween)

(Accepting each other's differences) A pumpkinseed was accidentally sown in a field that was intended only for squash. The early days of growth for the pumpkin were happy ones. But as the plants grew, difficulties arose when the squashes noticed that the pumpkin was different. At the end of the summer, the squash were harvested, but the pumpkin was left alone. He wondered what would become of him. Then in the fall, the farmer returned, accompanied by his whole family. Together they thought of all the ways that this big, beautiful pumpkin could be used. The pumpkin was filled with joy at the unique value he brought to the farmer and his family and friends.

Billy the Beaver (9 min, Thanksgiving)

(Quick judgments can limit our vision) Billy's family is busy preparing their winter home, and Billy helps out by searching in the forest for stones, branches, and shrubs. On his search, he encounters several forest creatures, whom he quickly

judges as being lazy or disinterested in helping him. He reports his disgust of these creatures to his mother, who lovingly explains that the other creatures are, in fact, doing very productive things. Billy realizes he can't use "Beaver standards", to judge other creatures. He's learned to respect the special gifts and talents of others.

The Ordinary Fir Tree (12 min, Christmas)

(All things turn out for the good) The ordinary fir tree grows up in the forest next to another tree which is greener and fuller than he. Yet, he has a great wish to be fine and tall enough to be used as a Christmas tree. One day, men come into the forest and cut some trees down to take to the shopping center. All the trees at the shopping center are purchased, and the ordinary fir tree is left alone. Finally, on Christmas Eve, the tree is taken to a home. When he arrives at the house however, he sees that the family already has a Christmas tree--his friend! The ordinary fir tree is taken to the basement and all his branches are cut off. The little tree is so disappointed. But to his surprise, he is made into a wreath and is hung high on the house to offer cheer to all who pass by.

Priscella Tadpole (10 min, January, Time of Change)

(Accepting change helps us to grow) Priscella the tadpole is happy living in a pond and playing with her best friend, Harvey. Her world is limited, but secure, except for an occasional threat from Rufus, the snapping turtle. One day Priscella bumps into a lily pad and discovers creatures called frogs. To her horror, she discovers that she too will become a frog. Priscella tries to resist the change, but in spite of her protests, her body slowly changes. She soon discovers that frogs can do more things than tadpoles. She wonders why she was ever afraid to change. Priscella decides to devote her life to helping the tadpoles in the pond make a graceful transition to "froghood."

The Valentine Card (10 min St. Valentine's Days)

(A gift of love can make the difference) Florence, a greedy businesswoman, owns the local card shop stocked for Valentine's Day with gaudy, extravagant cards. She is excited about the prospect of good sales and lots of money. In fact, that's all Valentine's Day means to her. A little girl who frequents the shop wants to buy the simplest card on the rack for her mother, but she only has 8 cents. The day before Valentine's Day, Florence reluctantly sells her the card. While opening her shop the next morning, the greedy woman finds a handmade card, a replica of the card she had sold the little girl, under the door. This valentine from the grateful little girl helps Florence realize that love is more important than money.

Dinty the Leprechaun (12 min, St. Patrick's Day)

(Acts of Kindness can change lives) Dinty is an unusual leprechaun. Unlike all others, he is gloomy and sad. He refuses to help the other leprechauns plan a forest party, preferring to sit by himself, sulking. When he overhears the others conferring about his miserable attitude, he realizes that it would be better if he were not around. He wanders into the forest wondering what to do. A golden butterfly has followed him, but selfish as he is, he doesn't notice her until he stumbles and falls on her wing. Having injured her, he decided to help her by making a tiny splint. Because he is still so unhappy, Golden Butterfly tickles his ear with her wing until Dinty laughs in spite of himself. The other leprechauns hear his laughter and come running to continue their party around the now transformed and happy Dinty.

Charles the Caterpillar (10 min, Easter/Spring)

(Small things can be blessings in disguise) Charles spends his days doing what comes naturally to him, eating. He is basically a good caterpillar, but one day he yields to peer pressure from his friend, Archie. Archie convinces Charlie to eat fresh corn growing in a nearby farmer's field. The consequences are disastrous for Archie, who is eaten by a crow. Charles learns the hard way, never to steal corn again. He goes back to eating leaves, and wonders if this is all there is to life, but soon began to have strange sensations. He thinks he's dying, but of course, he is only going through what every caterpillar must experience. He is in the process of becoming a butterfly. Once a butterfly, Charles spends his days enjoying his new abilities. He's happy that he is able to help nature by spreading pollen among the flowers.

Edna the Eagle (12 min, Pentecost/Memorial Day)

(Keeping the memory of a loved one alive) All the eagles on Eagle Mountain love to fly, except Edna. She sits brooding in her nest. Her best friend, Otto, a kind, and brave eagle, has disappeared. Edna has faithfully kept vigil, but after several months, Otto has not returned, and Edna is heartbroken. Some of the valley creatures come to comfort her with stories of Otto's courage. A rabbit, a mouse and an owl convince Edna that Otto spent his life doing unselfish things for others. Father Eagle helps Edna face the reality that Otto will not return, and he encourages her to get up and fly again. He tells her that Otto can still be present through the creatures who remember and imitate him. Edna takes heart and finally lifts her wings to soar high over Eagle Mountain.

LENT: A TIME TO FORGIVE (Twenty Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411 (20 min) For parents and elementary school children.

Lent allows us to slow down and realize that we are loved for who we are, not for what we do. Parents can accept and love their children, despite their mistakes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us this same gift of forgiveness.

McGEE AND ME (Liguori Publications) 1-800-325-9521 (www.liguori.org)
(30 min ea)

These videos feature interaction between animated and live figures. Students will enjoy the frolics of eleven-year-old Nicholas and his rascally cartoon friend, McGee, who always seems to learn a valuable lesson from their adventures. **(I-PE)**

Part One: The Big Lie

Nick and McGee learn the value of honesty when they discover that a "harmless lie" can have harmful consequences.

Part Two: A Star in the Breaking

The pals learn that too much pride can lead to a fall when Nick's overconfidence results in humiliating experience on a TV game show.

Part Three: The Not-So Great Escape

Nick and McGee learn a lesson in obedience after sneaking out to a horror movie they were forbidden to see.

Part Four: Skate Expectations

Nick and McGee discover that there is joy in showing love and kindness to all others when Nick defends the school nerd.

Part Five: Twister and Shout

During a tornado strike when Nick's parents are out, the two friends learn that you never have to worry about being alone or afraid when you trust in God.

Part Six: Back to the Drawing Board

Nick and McGee learn that jealousy causes a lot of hurt, anger and frustration. Especially for the one who's jealous.

Part Seven: Do the Bright Thing

Nick and McGee learn about the process and the payoff of making right and wrong decisions.

Part Eight: Take Me Out of the Ball Game

Nicholas and McGee with the help of Orel Hershiser learn about the importance of keeping things in the right perspective and putting faith in God, not people.

Part Nine: 'Twas the Fight before Christmas

Nicholas and McGee learn about God's love for people who are hard to love.

Part Ten: In the Nick of Time

Nick, Renee, Philip and their dads embark on a thrilling, mountain climbing adventure where Nick and McGee learn about courage and where to find it.

Part Eleven: The Blunder Years

A hip pair of shades and an attitude are all Nick needs to hang out with the coolest guy in school. But when he alienates his friends and family, he learns that being true to his heart is more important than running with the "in" crowd.

PRAYERTIME, FAMILYTIME (Twenty Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411. (25 min)

Teaching children how to pray should be part of ordinary daily life. Cathy Chesto explores the many ways of praying in family life. Children are portrayed saying grace, using blessings and they are seen in many family prayer rituals, some of which celebrate the church year. A guide is included.

RESTLESS HEARTS, DEVOTIONS FOR XERS BY XERS (Paraclete Press) 1-800-451-5006 (www.paracletepress.com)(45 min)

These are people who have faced some of the most difficult issues of our day. Through music, poetry, stories, and prayers, they show how, in their darkest moments, they have found love, forgiveness, and hope.

TEENS! YOU HAVE A CHOICE (Paraclete Press) 1-800-451-5006

(www.paracletepress.com) (2 hrs) For parents and teens.

Sexuality, substance abuse, values and peer pressure often feel like overwhelming problems for today's youth. But the problems need not be overwhelming if teens realize they have the power to choose and the power of God to guide them. This video, through the expert opinions of teen counselors and real-life, unscripted discussions with teens, faces these tough issues with facts and faith. The video has four, 30 minute segments: Is Abstinence a Dirty Word?, I'll Make Up My Own Mind, Whose Values?, and It's Not Cool. A discussion guide is included.

TELL ME ABOUT GOD (Paraclete Press)) 1-800-451-5006 (www.paracletepress.com) (45 min)

This ecumenical, multicultural video focuses on the most elementary ways of leading children to faith. It includes prayer, story, trust, modeling through ordinary actions, answering some of the hard questions children ask and the role of unconditional love.

THE NEW BIRTH DAY CLUB (St. Anthony Messenger Press) 1-800-488-0488 For parents and elementary school children.

The spirited video tells the story of Charlie and his desire to become a member of a community, the New BirthDay Club. Through the building of a clubhouse and the initiation of Charlie into this neighborhood club, the meaning of the symbols and gestures used in the rites of Baptism are explored. Study guide includes directions for use, activities, prayers, celebrations and prayers.

THE SACRAMENT OF PARENTHOOD (Paulist Press) 1-800-451-5006 (30 min)

We are a sacramental people. God's love is not limited to the seven sacraments. Grace is everywhere. This video includes such topics as: parents imaging God, the Church as family, health in the family and parenting for peace and justice.

THE STORYKEEPERS (Benziger/Glencoe:) 1-800-551-8766) For parents and elementary school children.

The Storykeepers series takes you into the unforgettable world of the underground Church. In this animated series, Ben the Baker, Helena his wife, and their "family" of young orphans, together with fellow first-century Christians, brave the emperor Nero's fury for the sake of the faith!

The nine video titles are: Breakout!; Raging Waters; Catacomb Rescue; Ready, Aim, Fire!; Starlight Escape; Sink or Swim; Roar in the Night; Captured!; Trapped.

THEY LIED TO US (Gospel Films, Inc.) (www.gospelcom.net) (45 min) For parents and teens. In our search for answers about values, relationships, and spirituality, are we listening more to what society and the media say rather than to what God says? This emotional and moving video poignantly explores the lives of several young people who "bought the lies" of society through television, movies, magazines and music...and suffered the consequences.

PRINTED MATERIALS

A CALL TO PEACE: 52 MEDITATIONS ON THE FAMILY PLEDGE OF NON-VIOLENCE. Jim McGinnis. (Liguori Publications) 1-800-325-9521

(www.liguori.org)

Organized around the seven components of the Family Pledge of Nonviolence, these 52 meditations offer prayerful and practical ways of becoming part of God's nonviolent transformation of the world. For each meditation there is Scripture selection, a story, prayer, reflection and songs to sing. To carry the theme into the life of the family, there is a short list of current books for both parents and children and some videos for the family to watch. Because this is a consciousness-raising book, it is an excellent book for all families but it is especially important for those who understand the implications of violence in society and family life and wish to do something about it.

ADVENT & LENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN: CAMELS, CAROLS, CROSSES AND CROWNS. Sheila Kielly and Sheila Geraghty. (Twenty-Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411.

This is a fascinating book filled with information that is not readily available. The authors explore more than sixty customs, traditions, and symbols which surround advent, Christmas, lent and Easter. Listing each topic in alphabetical order, information is given about the origin of the practice or symbol and how it evolved over time. This is followed by a "connection" section which explores, through the eyes of faith, the central theme and its connection to Christian life. The last section on each topic gives suggestions for activities that can easily be recreated in the home, classroom or small group setting. An excellent book that sheds light on the many customs which surround our celebrations and which we ordinarily take for granted.

ADVENT STORIES AND ACTIVITIES: MEETING JESUS THROUGH THE JESSEE TREE. Anne E. Neuberger. (Twenty-Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411.

This is a book of Jesse Tree stories which can be read to children, one a day, throughout the season of Advent. The stories are very well told and in many cases have parts to be read by several different members of the family or group. It can be used in conjunction with a Jesse tree, an advent calendar or simply on its own. It has the power to connect families with the countless generations of people who have sought God and experienced God's presence in this world. There are twenty-four stories with appropriate symbols for each, to mark the days before Christmas. In addition, at the very beginning of the book, the author offers directions for making seven different kinds of Jesse Trees and other uses for the book. The real value of this book, however, is in its storytelling.

ADVENT ARTS AND CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WITH PRAYERS AND RITUALS FOR FAMILY, SCHOOL AND CHURCH. Jeanne Heiberg. (Paulist Press) 1-800-451-5006

This is an excellent "hands on" book written by one of "our own". Jeanne was a Parish Catechetical Leader in Newark for many years. She is also a talented writer and artist who knows how to interest families. This book gives descriptions and patterns for such things as Advent Wreaths and Jesse trees, clay-dough decorations, calendars, epiphany mobiles and crowns, felt puppets, etc. It is a useful tool for the family's holiday library. It's the kind of thing Mom's and Dad's look for to help them celebrate the Church Year at home.

AN EMPTY CRADLE - A FULL HEART: REFLECTIONS FOR MOTHERS AND FATHERS AFTER MISCARRIAGE, STILLBIRTH, OR INFANT DEATH. Christine O'Keeffe Lafser. (Loyola Press) 1-800-621-1008 (www.loyolapress.org)

This is a book to help parents through grief and to validate their feelings of loss. It is a book of empathy and courage that can come only from one who has walked the same difficult path. The book contains reflections which are juxtapositioned with Scripture. The text is breathtaking and appropriate. It should be read by everyone ministering to families. It is also an appropriate gift for families grieving the death of an infant and it should also be noted that miscarriage is truly the death of an infant.

FINDING YOUR WAY WHEN YOUR CHILD DIES. Phyllis Vos Wezeman and Kenneth R. Wezeman. (Ave Maria Press) 1-800-282-1865 (www.avemariapress.1@nd.edu)

This is a book to help parents express their feelings associated with events that bring grief to the surface. Fifty-two themes, ranging from the weekly allowance, to birthdays, to graduations, help families recognize the experience as an opportunity for grief, as well as for growth. Readers will be reminded that God is with us in every circumstance of life, and that God's love is a love that survives any loss.

A PRAYER BOOK FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES (Loyola Press) 1-800-621-1008 (www.loyolapress.org)

This is a collection of prayers that are the heritage of every Catholic. It contains traditional prayers, many of which are taken from the Scriptures, for holy days and ordinary days, prayers of blessing, of contrition, of sorrow, of rejoicing, of petition and of thanksgiving. The words are large print so young (and older) readers can use the book easily. There is a short informative introduction to each prayer which gives some background to its origin and use. This is a resource for every home.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR LENT: FROM MARDI GRAS TO PASSIONTIDE. Jeanne Heiberg. (Paulist Press) 1-800-451-5006.

An excellent book to add to your library, this is a companion book to Jeanne's previously published *Advent Arts and Christmas Crafts*. It is filled with ideas and suggestions for using crafts to increase the faith of both children and families and then goes on to give the history and development of the seasonal symbols we use in prayer and family blessings. It is a treasure of background information; gives practical, hands-on directions for successful projects; and contains an abundance of creativity that will appeal to both catechists and parents of children of all ages.

AT HOME MOTHERHOOD: MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU. Cindy Tolliver (Resource Publications, Inc.) 1-888-273-7782 (www.rpinet.com)

When families make the choice for a wife to leave full time employment and become a full time, at home mother, the transition is often much more difficult than anticipated for both mom and dad. This book addresses the many issues involved in a positive, upbeat manner. Cindy Tolliver offers an array of suggestions for combating what she calls the "Home Along Syndrome," while clearly affirming the decision to be at home with children, especially during their early and school years. She offers practical ideas for taking care of the self, family and home, and she offers advice which helps make possible the transition from the concentrated, focused mindset which characterizes work outside the home, to a flexible mindset which allows for carrying prioritized lists of overlapping tasks in the head. This at-home mindset is a different kind of thinking which encourages interruption, and yet allows tasks to be completed. This is must reading for any mother who is working at motherhood full time. **(PH)**

BOOK OF VIRTUES: A TREASURY OF GREAT MORAL STORIES. Edited with commentary by William J. Bennett. (Simon and Schuster) Available at Barnes and Noble 1-800-THE-BOOK (www.bn.com)

This book is a "how to" book for moral literacy. If we want our children to possess the traits of character we most admire, we need to teach them what those traits of character are and why they deserve both admiration and allegiance.

BOOK OF VIRTUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Edited with commentary by William J. Bennett. (Silver Burdett Press)) Available at Barnes and Noble 1-800-THE-BOOK (www.bn.com)

This 400 page anthology is an abridged edition of the book reviewed above. While it contains fewer stories, those included have the same wording and they are complete. The book however, is youth friendly. The introductions to each virtue are written specifically for young people, the print is larger and there are some pictures. This book would make an excellent book for young readers.

BOOKS THAT BUILD CHARACTER. William Kilpatrick, Gregory and Suzanne Wolfe. (Published by Simon and Schuster) Available at Barnes and Noble 1-800-THE-BOOK (www.bn.com)

This book suggests stories for various age levels, theme/virtues. Age groups: Younger Reader (4-8), Middle Readers (8-12), Older Readers (12 and up). It also provides guidelines for identifying other great books for the family story timer. In Appendix two, the book also lists and summarizes the story line for twenty great children's videos.

BUILDING FAMILY PRAYER & TRADITIONS. Steve Givens. (Alphonsus House Chawton Alton Hampshire: Redemptorist Publications) (www.redempt.org)

This very colorful, easy reading book is an appeal to families to give family ritual a place in their homes. Family ritual can, the author states, build a sense of family, help pass on the faith, nurture participants, strengthen personal faith and family communication, connect faith to life, and establish and reinforce Christian values. The book also offers guidelines for creating good family ritual and some simple devotions for families to try.

CHILDREN PRAYING. Joan Bel Geddes. (Sorin Books) 1-219-287-2831 (www.sorinbooks.com)

Parents will love this little handbook on prayer. Not only does it give reasons for praying with children, but explores the many ways to go about doing so within the framework of family life. Reading the book is in itself an enriching exercise for adults and especially for parents for as it explores the different kinds of prayer (the thank you prayer, the sorry prayer, the please help prayer, the God bless prayer) structured prayer (morning, mealtimes, etc.) spontaneous prayer (the anytime prayer) and dealing with children's doubts, it gives mature, adult insights which parents can take into their own prayer life. It also includes information on the celebration of Christian holidays and other occasions and how they are celebrated around the world. An excellent, easy to read, yet scholarly book.

DAILY MEDITATIONS (WITH SCRIPTURE) FOR BUSY DADS. Patrick Reardon.

DAILY MEDITATIONS (WITH SCRIPTURE) FOR BUSY COUPLES. David Foster and Patricia Robertson. (ACTA Publications) Available at www.amazon.com

These paperbacks, just the right size for desk, kitchen counter or bedside night table, contain 365 meditations for either fathers or couples. They are companions to the best seller which was written for mothers, by the same title (substitute ‘ **Busy Mom’s**’). Each one-page meditation is dated, beginning with January first and ending with December thirty-first. The meditations reflect the seasons of life as well as the seasons of the year. As one reads through the books, it becomes very apparent that the authors of these books speak from the experience of family life..

DOLORES CURRAN ON FAMILY PRAYER. Dolores Curran. Twenty-Third Publications, revised and expanded 1997) 1-800-321-0411.

This third edition of a “family favorite” continues to be a basic resource book for all families interested in praying at home with their children. It is packed with everything today’s Catholic family needs to build a rich and satisfying prayer life. It is a handbook with traditional prayers; spontaneous prayer, what it is and how to start; contemporary prayer services and rituals for all occasions; and home activities with a spiritual flavor. It is easy to adapt to any family situation. This new addition offers a list of suggested resources and where to obtain them, thus recognizing the difficulty parents have in locating Catholic reading and video resources for their families.

EDUCATING FOR CHARACTER, HOW OUR SCHOOLS CAN TEACH RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY. Thomas Lickona.: Bantam Books) Available at www.amazon.com.

With “family values” an American byword again, this book is timely reading. Thomas Lickona presents a very persuasive argument for teaching values in our public schools. He addresses most of the arguments against “value education,” explores the present day reality in both the schools and society and then goes on to explore approaches and programs that are presently working in school districts and/or schools across the nation. This is must reading for any one who deals with public school children on a regular basis. The book presents a valuable picture of the ways public school teachers presently handle discussion of the various topics which come under the broad areas of respect and responsibility. Topics covered include honesty, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex education, parental involvement, moral decision-making, etc. His insight into areas of controversy is a welcome addition to the public debate which is taking place today.

EVERYTHING >ROUND US IS PRAISE Joy Cowley. (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press) In this volume, Joy Cowley gives us a book of beautiful prayers which connect everything around us to God, and in so doing she makes prayer a very real part of everyday family life. These prayers take the ordinary “stuff” of which life is made, and then they bring this “stuff” into the place where God dwells.

FAMILY GUIDE TO MOVIES AND VIDEOS. Edited by Henry Herx. (Our Sunday Visitor) 1-800-348-2440. (www.osv.com)

It is the intention of this guide to furnish parents with information about the moral dimension of story and treatment, age suitability, and the artistic and entertainment quality of each of the movies listed in the book. Movies included are from 1966-1999. Each selection has a summary of the movie, an evaluation of its relative merits as entertainment or enrichment, as well as suitability for various age groups. Two ratings groups are given: United States Catholic Conference's Office for Film and Broadcasting and the Motion Picture association of America.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR FAMILY TIMES. Kathleen O'Connell Chesto. (Twenty-Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411.

This book can be considered a companion to Dolores Curran's classic, *Family Prayer*. Dr. Chesto shows how to bring family members closer together and closer to God through family prayer and family involvement. She offers a guide for prayer and ritual which contains simple rote prayers and ways that individuals can make prayer their natural response to everything from waking to sleeping. She also offers ways for families to celebrate their lives and foster a sense of Christian identity through family ritual. This is a book full of ideas which families can make their own.

FAMILY SPIRITUALITY, THE RAW INGREDIENTS OF FAITH. Lief Kehrwald (Don Bosco) available through Barnes and Noble. 1-800-THE-BOOK (www.bn.com)

"Family spirituality sees the activities of family life not as obstacles to faith but as vehicles of faith." This is the theme which the author pursues throughout this entire, very readable book. He not only believes that faith comes alive for married people and their children within the home atmosphere but he goes on to show how this comes about. In reading the simple, true life stories which portray profound truths, families cannot help but reflect on the growing faith and holiness present in their own "domestic church."

FATHER McBRIDE'S FAMILY CATECHISM. Alfred McBride, O.Praem. (Our Sunday Visitor) 1-800-348-2440. (www.osv.com)

In his Introduction, Father McBride states, "I hope that you will use this book to help you make a lifetime study of the full **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. My book is simply a means to an end, not just for study, but for living the faith of the Church." Each section of the book begins with reference numbers to the **Catechism** and an entertaining yet thought-provoking opening story, followed by a **Catechism** reflection, an application of the teaching to Catholic family life, a family prayer, and a glossary of terms

FUN? BUT WE'RE MARRIED. Lois Leiderman Davitz and Joel Davitz. (Sorin Books) 1-219-287-2831 (www.sorinbooks.com)

Married over fifty years, this scholarly couple (both have Ph.D's) have spent almost as many years researching why some marriages last while others fail. The real key to successful marriage they insist is having fun together. From their personal experience (they tell great stories) and research they offer practical insight into the secrets and ground rules they have found helpful in maintaining their happy marriage. This is an excellent book for those about to be married and those already married.

GROWING TOWARD INTIMACY: HELPING CATHOLIC TEENS INTEGRATE SEXUALITY AND SPIRITUALITY. Bob Bartlett (Good Ground Press)available through www.amazon.com

The focus of the author of this attractive book is intimacy, its many expressions. This is a much-needed book for young people today. There is so much confusion in their minds regarding both intimacy and sex. The author touches on many of the myths about sexuality and places the whole arena of human sexuality into the realm of growing intimacy in committed relationships. Not only is this little book true to Catholic teaching, but it poses for adolescents an approach to dating and relating to the opposite sex which will enable them to build strong, mature relationships and marriages in the future. While exploring the many meanings of intimacy, it becomes very clear that intimacy stands on its own apart from sex, indeed sex can be fulfilling only in the context of relationships where life is shared on many levels and communication is a growing phenomenon.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD A CATFISH PURR? Bernadette McCarver Snyder (Ave Maria Press) 1-800-282-1865 (www.avemariapress.1@nd.edu)

The clown fish, angelfish, and archerfish are three of the unusual and unique creatures of God's underwater world which come alive in this colorful book. Along with starfish, sand dollars, mussels that dot the sandy beaches and are familiar to children, these enchanting stories introduce young children to the mystery of our creative God. Children and adults alike will be fascinated by the world of freshwater life and come to know and appreciate their loving and creative God.

HEALING WOUNDED EMOTIONS. Martin H. Padovani. (Twenty Third Publications) 1-800-321-0411

Addressed how you can better understand and cope with the way you feel about yourself. How to relate to others. How to deal with those who have caused you harm & pain, whether they know it or not.

HOME IS A HOLY PLACE: REFLECTIONS, PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS INSPIRED BY THE ORDINARY. Mark G.Boyer. (ACTA Publications)available through www.amazon.com.

This book follows the alphabet from A to Z, with each reflection based on a household object or activity, beginning with 'apron' and ending with 'zipper'. It is hoped that the reflections will lead family people to learn the basics of domestic spirituality, the "holiness of the home". Each exercise consists of five parts: Title, Scripture Reflection, Meditation and Prayer. After praying with this little book, one's home begins to look different -- a place where everything can be holy.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD A HUMMINGBIRD HUM? Bernadette McCarver Snyder. (Ave Maria Press) 1-800-282-1865 (www.avemariapress.1@nd.edu)

This is a book for the whole family. With an introduction followed by thirty-two unique stories that contain little known facts about our feathered friends, this book is ready made for family reading. For households with a bird feeder, it contains much delightful information along with the constant reminder that birds were created by a loving and imaginative God. Did you know that some geese and ducks run Anursery schools where a few adult birds take care of dozens of the children of other birds? Some of the duck Aschools will have as many as 100 little ducklings!

HOMEMADE CHRISTIANS II: GROWING IN THE DARK. Nancy Marrocco. (Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press) available through www.amazon.com.

This is a profound book for all parents but especially for new parents. It is written, as its predecessor was, in the format of a child's picture book. Nancy herself drew the illustrations using her talent with watercolors. The artwork is excellent, but the real value of the book is in its profound message. This little book helps parents do two very important things. First, it helps connect the adult's life with his/her faith, and second, it offers concrete, fun ways to give this insight to their child using the ordinary things parents do with small children.

LETS SAY GRACE. Robert M. Hamma. (Ave Maria Press) 1-800-282-1865
(www.avemariapress.1@nd.edu)

A wonderful collection of mealtime prayers for families, this is a great book to either own or give as a gift. This little book is divided into nine chapters: an introduction, Ordinary Days, Special Days, Advent, Christmas Season, Lent, Easter Season, Holy Days and Holidays and Traditional Graces. The prayers are simple but thoughtful. The section, Holy Days and Holidays, includes a short informative meditation on the meaning of the day along with the suggested prayer. All chapters contain short and simply worded prayers which can be read by a parent or school age child. The book is appropriate for families with children of all ages and a welcome addition to any family meal.

MAKE FAMILY TIME PRIME TIME. Denise Yribarren and DeAnn Koestner
(Twenty-Third Publications)

This book is a marvelous resource filled with family activities that are practical, fun and which can be done with little planning or preparation. It is a storehouse of ideas which any family can adapt and use to their advantage. It also has a rich spiritual dimension which can bring faith right into family fun times.

MOM ON THE RUN: A MOTHERS HILARIOUS JOURNEY FROM BURNOUT TO GLORY. Nancy Kennedy. (Questar Publishers) available through Barnes and Noble. 1-800-THE-BOOK. (www.bn.com)

This is a light bubbly book, the kind most mothers read just for the solace of knowing that they are not alone in their journey through parenthood. It is a God centered, prayerful book always coming back to the all-encompassing presence of Jesus in family life. Nancy Kennedy is a well-published author. Some of her most engaging articles have been found in woman's magazines. She has an "Erma Bombeck" style of expressing herself and a truly understanding comprehension of motherhood. It's a nice book for any mother to read on a lazy rainy or snowy afternoon; it is light reading and sometimes very funny, but in its own way contains profound spirituality.

MOM STORIES: INSTANT INSPIRATION FOR MOTHERS. Vickie LoPiccolo Jennett.
(Resource Publications) 1-888-273-7782 (www.rpinet.com)

This is a small book of reflections and prayers, written by Mom's for Mom's. It flows out of the MOM's groups which are flourishing in parishes around the country. There are sixty-two reflections in all, each beginning with a short passage from Scripture. This is followed by a story about family life written by a mother and some reflection questions which bring the story into the reader's own family life. The themes are powerful and the stories very real and often touching. There is also some space for personal writing on each theme. The book can be used by an individual at home or in a small group setting.

MOTHERHOOD, A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. Ellyn Sanna. (Paulist Press) 1-800-451-5006.

This is a gift book. It is the kind of book that you can give to new mothers at the birth of a child or on the announcement of pregnancy. It would make a very special Mother's Day present for any mother regardless of her age or the ages of her children. Ellyn Sanna reflects on the ups and downs of motherhood. Each chapter contains both a "sunshine" section and a "shadow" section. She offers reflections on such topics as Pregnancy and Childbirth, Nourishing an Infant, Letting Go, Housework, Failure, etc., and in the process offering insights from such spiritual masters as: Mother Teresa, Saint Augustine, Brother Lawrence, Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and Thomas Merton. There are also numerous references to Scripture. It offers much for all Moms to think about.

PRAYERS FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH. Edward Hays. (Easton, Kansas: Forest of Peace Books, Inc.) available through Barnes and Noble. 1-800-THE-BOOK. (www.bn.com).

This book includes blessing prayers of gratitude and praise, holydays and holidays, meal prayers for special occasions, devotions to the Mother of God, daily personal prayers, prayers for reconciliation within the home, prayers in the time of sickness and the shadow of death. These are creative in style and brief.

SAINTLY CELEBRATIONS & HOLY HOLIDAYS: EASY AND IMAGINATIVE IDEAS TO CREATE YOUR OWN CATHOLIC FAMILY TRADITIONS. Bernadette McCarver Snyder. (Liguori Publications) 1-800-325-9521. (www.liguori.org).

Another book for families, this book concentrates on helping parents create their own family traditions. There are suggestions for creating a wide variety of traditions for each month of the year and for people of all ages. For each month there is a list of Saints Days, holidays, recipes for the family, gifts to make, and an abundance of ideas for families to apply to individual members or to the group as a whole. It is a celebration of life - family life.

TABLETALK, STORY-SHARING FOR FAMILIES. Carole M. Eipers. (Sheed and Ward) 1-800-266-5564.

This is a book about sharing food and the stories which can nourish us as a family wherever and whenever we are able to gather. It can also be used as a family journal which keeps a record of the sharing that takes place around the table. It is a workbook also, offering one-page invitations for families to share stories, past and present, about topics ranging from "family favorites" to moral dilemmas, to our dreams about the future.

TALKING TO YOUTH ABOUT SEXUALITY: A PARENT'S GUIDE. Edited by Mike Aquilina. (Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.) Our Sunday Visitor 1-800-348-2440. Email: osvbooks@osv.com)

This is an excellent book for parents. It is short and to the point. It gives a very concise overview of what children should be taught in regard to their sexuality. It is a very positive recording of Church teaching in regard to human dignity, and the issues involved in human sexuality. It is a resource every parent of pre-teens and young adolescents should have available. It will help them address the questions their children are asking and help lay the groundwork for future discussion.

GROWING UP A FRIEND OF JESUS, Francoise Darcy-Berube and John Paul Berube. St. Anthony Messenger Press. 1-800-488-0488. (www.AmericanCatholic.org)

This Spiritual handbook for children ages 8-11 offers parents and godparents an opportunity to talk naturally and meaningfully with children about Jesus and how to become his disciple. It is an effective tool for children who are the journey to Eucharist and offers practical suggestions for living the Christian way of life in the middle elementary school years.

THE CATHOLIC PARENT BOOK OF FEASTS. Michaelann Martin, Carol Puccio and Zoe Romanowsky. Our Sunday Visitor 1-800-348-2440. Email: osvbooks@osv.com)

Fun events, prayers, scripture quotes, lives of the saints, recipes, reflections, and more, enable parents to create a truly Catholic home atmosphere. With careful attention to ethnic traditions and the minor feasts of the Church as well as the major feasts and seasons, the book is a joyful cornucopia of ideas that is sure to delight family members from one to one hundred.

THE INCREDIBLE GIFT: THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE AND SEX. Keith and Tami Kiser. (Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.) 1-800-348-2440. Email: osvbooks@osv.com)

An excellent book for young teens, this is a book every parent should know about. It's written to educate young people (who already know the "facts of life") toward a life of chastity, i.e. respecting the gift of sex and the ways God calls us to use this gift. It is scripture based with references to the Catechism and traditional Church teaching. It is well written, easy to understand and very upbeat.

THE SEEKER'S GUIDE TO BEING CATHOLIC. Mitch Finley. (Loyola Press) 1-800-621-1008 (www1.loyolapress.org)

This little book explores the connections between the Catholic faith and ordinary lay life by discussing such topics as work, relationships, prayer, spirituality, morality and vocation. Finley, as always, writes from a family perspective and therefore deals with the issues that impact on lay life in the American culture. The book contains insights rather than answers and can serve to help people begin their quest to bring their lives and their spirituality together.

THE SOUL OF A MARRIAGE. Patrick J. and Claudette M. McDonald. (Paulist Press) 1-800-451-5006.

In this unique and powerful book, the McDonalds explore the various ways in which God is present in contemporary marriage relationships. Using the traditional writings of John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Thomas Merton, etc., they forge a vital spirituality for married folks, which views change and darkness as times of relational growth leading to enrichment and wholeness for the marriage and for the individual spouses. This is a book for every married couple and most especially for all those who work with married couples and with families.

THE WONDER WITHIN. Jaymie Stuart Wolfe. (Ave Maria Press) 1-800-282-1865
(www.avemariapress.1@nd.edu)

This is a lovely little book for all mothers and mothers-to-be. It is a book which focuses on the wonders of motherhood and at the same time it is a tribute to Mary, a mother of true faith and love. The author's perception of children and family life in general, and as both a cause and result of spiritual growth, is timely. Her perspective on motherhood and parenting form excellent material for meditation and reflection on family life as domestic church. The book is both entertaining and serious reading without being heavy. It is a wonderful gift for any mother.

TIRED OF ARGUING WITH YOUR KIDS? Dolores Curran. (Sorin Books) 1-219-287-2831 (www.sorinbooks.com)

This is a book of wisdom written by nationally acclaimed family author Dolores Curran and compiled from workshops she has done in the United States and Europe. It is a very practical book, a how-to list of options for parents to use in a wide variety of ordinary family interactions with children of all ages. It is a "must read" for all parents.

TREASURY OF CATHOLIC STORIES. Compiled and edited by Gerald Costello. (Our Sunday Visitor. 1-800-348-2440. Email: osvbooks@osv.com)

The stories are arranged to illustrate some basic teachings: about four cardinal virtues, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the corporal works of mercy, and the spiritual works of mercy. They are presented together to foster an awareness of Catholic heritage, to teach Catholics and their friends about the Church, and to call individual Catholics and their families to a life of faith.

VELVET & STEEL: A GUIDE FOR CHRISTIAN FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS.
John K. Ream. (Resource Publications, Inc.) 1-888-273-7782
(www.rpinet.com)

This excellent book is a statement on the challenging art of fathering and the positive effect men can have in their children's lives. It is also a testimony to how husbands and wives can serve as full partners in marriage and family life. The book contains fathering principles which are illustrated with real-life stories and biblical insights. This is an excellent book for every father to read, and it can also be used by fathers in small sharing groups.

WEAVING FAITH & FAMILY . . . Eileen Marx. (Ave Maria Press) 1-800-282-1865
(www.avemariapress.1@nd.edu)

This is a book written to help parents connect faith and family life. There are fifty-two chapters, one for each week of the year. Each chapter contains a story of family life, a scripture passage related to the theme, practical suggestions to enrich and deepen family spirituality, books to read to children, books and research for parents, reflection questions and prayer suitable for mealtimes, bedtimes or anytime. The format is organized in a very easy to use fashion and the reading is interesting and informative. This is a great family resource.

PERIODICALS

CATHOLIC PARENT (Our Sunday Visitor Press) 1-800-348-2440. Email: osvbooks@osv.com) Published bimonthly, this is a true magazine using the format of other national women's magazines. It contains timely articles, colorful pictures, regular columns, sometimes good fiction for parents or for children. Overall it is probably the best family magazine on the market today.

CATHOLIC DIGEST (Carillon Publications) 1-651-962-6725. (<http://www.catholicdigest.org>) Published monthly, this follows the familiar "Reader's Digest" formula with regular features such as "People Are Like That", "Words for Quiet Moments" and Catholic Trivia quiz. It also contains feature articles related to the liturgical seasons. A good source of enrichment for adult Catholics.

ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER (St. Anthony Messenger Press) 1-800-488-0488. This magazine is published monthly by the Franciscan Friars of St. John and contains inspirational articles as well as timely news articles, movie reviews, poetry and book reviews. The contents are very versatile and appealing to youth, parents and adult Catholics alike.

LIGUORIAN (Liguori Publications) 1-800-325-9521 (www.liguori.org) A monthly Redemptorist publication, this is another fine resource similar in format to St. Anthony Messenger. It also contains feature articles that are both newsworthy and inspirational as well as regular features containing book reviews, Bible quizzes, humor and connections to the liturgical calendar. Excellent enrichment for youth, families and adult Catholics.

FAMILY WEBSITES



<http://www.uchicago.edu/divinity/family/communitarianpolicy.html>

Prepared by Don Browning
University of Chicago
Director of the Religion, Culture, and Family Project

The Religion, Culture, and Family Project seeks to address the contemporary situation of American families from a range of theological, historical, legal, biblical, and cultural perspectives.

<http://listserv.american.edu/catholic/church/vatican/fmright.doc>

Charter of Rights for Families
(Presented by the Holy See to all persons, institutions and authorities concerned with the mission of the family in today's world October 22, 1983)

<http://www.newadvent.org/docs/pcf9601.htm>

The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality
The Pontifical Council for the Family
Guidelines for Education Within the Family
November 21, 1995
The Pontifical Council for the Family Guidelines for Education Within the Family, November 21, 1995

<http://www.mcgill.pvt.k12.al.us/jerryd/cm/family.htm>

Theology Library for Families
This offers links to 61 sites that contain documents and teachings on the family from a Catholic perspective.

www.familylife.com

This is a Christian web-site that was founded by the same group who founded Campus Crusade back in the 70s.

<http://www.family.go.com/>

This site contains links for all sorts of family life activities.

<http://www.catholic-family.org/>

National Association of Catholic Families
We are Catholic families who try to give one another mutual, moral, spiritual and social support in a culture that is now at war with our values. This we do by linking committed Catholic families locally, nationally and internationally but always with the simple intention of mutual support. We are answering the Holy Father Pope John Paul's call for families to be what they are.

<http://www.faithfirst.com/html/family/>

Resources for Christian Living
RCL has a website which is free to anyone and has ideas for family prayer, activities, timely articles, etc. Their Family Page is entitled, "Family Front Porch."

<http://www.americancatholic.org/>.

This site is an excellent resource for information and inspiration. The web-site uses St. Anthony Messenger Press material, Catholic Updates etc. The information is easy to read and orthodox. From this location it is possible to access Catholic e-greetings, which offers e-mail greetings for many important family events such as Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communion, etc.

<http://www.everydaycatholic.org/>

This web-site is an off-shoot of Every Day Catholic, a mini-magazine which features articles by Richard Rohr OFM; media watch; saints/heroes of the month and a family corner among other things. The articles are available online along with responses from folks/families at home.

<http://www.oncecatholic.org/>

This site began on Ash Wednesday 2001, and is for folks who have left or drifted away from the Church. Along with information and inspiration, it will offer a number of real-life online folks to serve as companions. The objective is not to form online communities but to get people back to a local community.