Pray for Your Family

God, give us the grace to see signs of your presence in our daily life together.

Your Child's Spiritual Development: SACRAMENTAL IMAGINATION

Jesus said, "Those who have eyes to see, let them see." What did he hope we would see? He wants us to be aware of the presence of God in all things. Catholics are called to have a sacramental imagination; that is a way of experiencing the world as a constant revelation that God is present for us and that his grace, strength, and peace are often brought to us through tangible signs. It's our job as parents to help our children develop the eyes to recognize God's presence in the ordinary objects and events of daily life as a family. Here are some ways you might try:

- Adorn your home with sacred art and objects such as a statue of your favorite saint, a crucifix or other image of Christ, or a family Bible kept in a prominent place. Let your child pick out a piece of holy art for his or her room.

- Let your child experience holy water daily. Children are fascinated with water and are open to the power of symbols. Get a holy water font, replenished with blessed water from your parish church, to hang in the doorway to your child's bedroom. It will immerse your child in one of the strongest images Jesus used: the living water that he offered to the Samaritan woman.

- Share how objects around the house that you hold sacred evoke a sense of God's presence in you. Take time to sit with your child and share stories of meaningful objects and memories from your own growing-up years that helped you know that God was present in your life.

"I thank you, Lord, with all my heart…."

Psalm 138

Catholic Fact

At the Last Supper, Jesus instructed his followers to "do this in memory of me." And the first Christians did, meeting on "the first day of the week" (Sunday) to break bread, the Acts of the Apostles tells us. The Fundamental structure of our celebration of the Mass– the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist- has remained the same through the centuries, uniting God's people.