

O God of awe and grandeur, give us the grace to be aware of all the wonders you have made for us. Amen

## **Your Child's Spiritual Development: NURTURING AWE**

Children come quite naturally to awe. They typically bring an exuberance and excitement to even the most ordinary events. They offer us the opportunity to see the world with wonder when we view it through their eyes. A young child's ability to experience awe is a virtuous quality that we can simply honor and sustain rather than teach. Our challenge as parents is to find creative ways to nurture it and not squelch it. Here are some suggestions you might find helpful:

1. **Create an environment that disposes your child to awareness: quiet times, unstructured play, and exposure to good music and art.**
2. **Foster the use of imagination and creativity.**
3. **Follow your child's interests and joy.**
4. **Play together. Pay attention together. Get out of your routine.**
5. **Don't allow yourself to be so overworked that you miss glorious moments where you can share awe and wonder with your child.**

*"When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he exclaimed, 'Truly, the Lord is in this spot, although I did not know it!'"*

### **Catholic Fact**

**Sacred images—statues, painting, and the like— in our churches and homes are there to inspire and engage our senses and spirit. Their role is to express visually the messages contained in Scripture. "Image and word illuminate each other," the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says. (1160). We do not worship these objects; they help us call God to mind.**