

October 2011

Praying together at home:

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The rosary is a meditative prayer, when we pray over and reflect on different encounters in the life of the Blessed Mother with God. For younger children to pray an entire rosary for about ten minutes might be too repetitive and unhelpful. Maybe committing ourselves to praying one Our Father, and two Hail Mary's, and one Glory be to the Father, per evening would mean we would say more than a rosary during the month of October together. Meanwhile, we could pray each time on just one part of the different mysteries of the rosary:

The Joyful Mysteries: The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Mother; The Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth (the Mother of John the Baptist); The Birth of Jesus; The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple; The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

The Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in the Garden; the Scourging at the Pillar; the Crowning with Thorns; Carrying of the Cross; the Crucifixion.

The Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection of Jesus; the Ascension of Jesus; the Descent of the Holy Spirit; the Assumption of the Blessed Mother into Heaven; the Coronation of the Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven.

Looking ahead to the weekend: Pray over these questions.

October 1st and 2nd: Do I have a temper? What makes me angry? How do I feel when I see someone being treated unfairly? How do I feel when I am treated unfairly? Do I keep my promises? How do I feel when I break a deal that I have made? Is it easy for me to challenge someone who is not being fair or has broken their deal with me?

October 8th and 9th: What was the most fun party I went to during the last year? Who did I have the most fun with at a recent party? When I go to a party who do I like to see and be with? What do I do for fun at a party? How do I feel if there is a party and I cannot go? How do I feel when someone invites me to their party?

October 15th and 16th: What are some of the things I that I own? What belongs to me? What groups do I belong to? Who are some of the people that can make a claim on my time and on me? Do I ever feel like I am someone else's "slave"? How do I feel when I am bossed around? Does God "own" me?

October 22nd and 23rd: How do I show that I love God? How do I know that God loves me? How do I show that I love others? What have others done to show that they love me?

October 29th and 30th: Who are my teachers? What are some of the things that I am being taught now? Who am I teaching? What am I teaching them? Who gives me a good example? Who are some of the people and classmates that I admire?