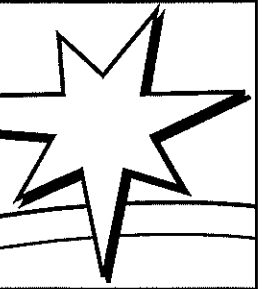


# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

February 2019

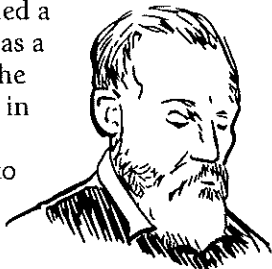
Blessed Sacrament School  
Esther B. Gutierrez



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Jerome Emiliani

St. Jerome led a wayward life as a soldier until he was captured in battle and turned back to God. After a miraculous escape, he returned to Venice and studied for the priesthood. After being ordained, he began working for the poor. He was especially devoted to caring for orphans—victims of a recent war. To help, he and some companions founded the Clerks Regulars of Somascha. He is the patron saint of orphanages and abandoned children.



### Through the eyes of a child

Let a child's wonder about the mysteries of God's love awaken your own sense of excitement. In connecting with your children, you may find you are reconnecting with the child in yourself.

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might"*  
Deuteronomy 6:4).



## Share what you love about being Catholic

We choose to be Catholic because we know joyful practice helps us to become the people God wants us to be. A good way to help children find the same joy in our Faith is to share what we love about it ourselves:

"My grandmother prayed the Rosary every day of her life," said Lisa. "When I was old enough, she gave me my own Rosary and taught me how to pray it. This prayer has helped me through many tough times in my life and I pray it often with my own children."

"I enjoy celebrating the seasons of the liturgical year and marking the

milestones of our Faith," said Chris.

"My children love changing the colors of our displays, singing seasonal hymns, and learning the stories of saints from long ago."

"I fell away from the Church when I was in college," said Erica.

"Then I started dating a man who was a devout Catholic and I went to Mass a few times with him. We fell in love and he asked that I go to Confession so we could receive Communion

together. I did it for him, but felt such a thrill when I heard the words of absolution and realized that Jesus really did forgive me. Now we tell our children that Confession brought us together."



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## Why do Catholics choose godparents for baptism?

In the early Church, most people who were baptized were adults converting to Christianity. Because of the persecution, sponsors would confirm the integrity of potential converts, called catechumens, to make sure they weren't spies. They



would also instruct the catechumens. When infant baptism became more common, sponsors would make the Profession of Faith for the infants and be responsible for raising them in the Faith if the parents were unable to. This is when the name "godfather/godmother" came into use.

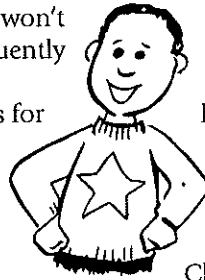
## What gifts will you offer your child?

All loving parents want to give their children gifts. Unfortunately, we know that the gifts we can give won't bring lasting happiness. Instead, we can pray frequently and fervently for gifts that will. Consider making petitions for these gifts a part of your daily prayers for your children:

**Wisdom.** Ask that your child be inspired to avoid poor choices and have the wisdom to lead a Gospel-centered life.

**Courage.** Fortify him to stand for justice and speak out against bigotry, unfairness, and cruelty.

**Strength.** Pray that as she grows she will withstand



negative peer pressure.

**Compassion.** Help him follow Jesus' commandment to love one another.

**Discernment.** Endow them with the skills to select healthy friendships.

**Independence.** Ask that children care less about what others think of them and be more interested in pleasing God.

**Faith.** Give them faith in God, belief in the teachings of Christ, Scripture, and of the Catholic Church. These are the foundation for a healthy life and eternal salvation.

These gifts will make us happy forever.

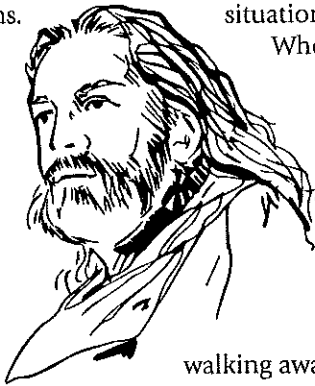
### Scripture LESSON

### Luke 6:27-38; Loving like God

This Gospel passage is all about Christ-like conduct with difficult people or situations. Jesus tells us to "love your enemies...forgive." It's easy to love our friends, but nearly impossible to love those who treat us badly.

Love is acting for the other's good; it's not (just) a feeling. We know our love is authentic when we can pray for our enemies, do a favor for someone who can't repay us, repay an insult with kindness, or return violence with non-violent resistance.

Forgiving others means we stop



accusing them in our hearts. It's choosing not to prolong a bad situation by hoping for revenge.

When we forgive, it sets us free—free to move on with our life.

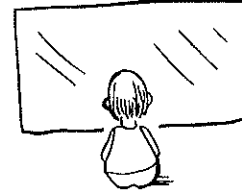
*What can a parent do?* Tell children that truly following Christ means doing the right thing even if it's difficult or unpopular.

Not taking reckless dares, walking away from a fight, and choosing not to "get even" aren't signs of weakness, but require real strength of character. The surest sign of being God's children is if we love others the way he does.

### Parent TALK

#### Limiting the TV time

I was becoming concerned that my children were spending too much time in front of screens. Most of their



conversations revolved around movies and television shows. They wouldn't miss their favorite

programs but they were missing hours of their lives.

My concerns were confirmed one night when we lost power for a few hours during a long thunderstorm. No television, no computers, no iPads. The girls grew bored, cranky, and restless. Finally, I lit candles and pulled out board games. We played Dominoes, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit. The power came back, but Kara and Dad were tied and wanted to play to the finish.

After that night, I realized we needed to make a change. In order to earn screen time, the children had to spend time reading, playing outside or doing chores. Since then, they have found other ways to have fun and don't need their devices nearly as much.

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### Feasts & Celebrations

Feb. 2 – The Presentation of the Lord. In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to make the required offering forty days after his birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the long-awaited Savior.

Feb. 21 – St. Peter Damian (1072). Childhood deprivation may have created a desire for an austere life. St. Peter Damian became a disciplined monk but was called to serve as a bishop for many years and served as

advisor to seven popes. He retired to monastic life and died in the care of his brother monks.

Feb. 25 – St. Caesarius of Nazianzus (369). Brother of St. Gregory of Nazianzus, St. Caesarius served as physician to the emperor Julian the Apostate. Julian tried to convince St. Caesarius to renounce his faith, but the saint refused and later resigned his post. After surviving a terrible earthquake in Nicaea, he decided to be formally baptized (most people back then delayed baptism until later). He died soon after.



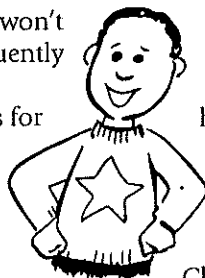
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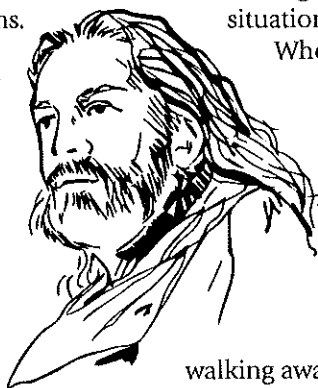
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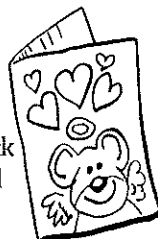
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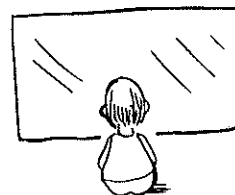
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# Compañeros en la fe

Febrero de 2019

Ayudando a nuestros hijos a crecer en la fe católica

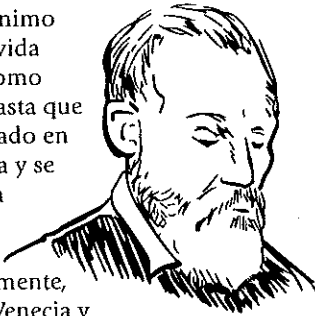
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## Momentos para pensar

### San Jerónimo Emiliani

San Jerónimo vivió una vida disoluta como soldado hasta que fue capturado en una batalla y se convirtió a Dios. Tras escapar milagrosamente, regresó a Venecia y estudió para sacerdote. Después de ser ordenado empezó a trabajar para los pobres. Se dedicó especialmente al cuidado de los huérfanos víctimas de una guerra reciente. Para ayudarlos, fundó con algunos compañeros la Orden de los Clérigos Regulares de Somasca. Es el santo patrón de los orfanatos y los niños abandonados.



### Por los ojos de un niño

Deje que el asombro de un niño por los misterios del amor de Dios despierte su propio sentido del entusiasmo. Al conectar con sus hijos quizá descubra que está reconectando con el niño que vive dentro de usted.

*"Escucha, Israel: Yahvé nuestro Dios es el único Yahvé.*

*Amarás a Yahvé tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con todas tus fuerzas"*

(Deuteronomio 4).



## Compartan lo que aman de ser católicos

Elegimos ser católicos porque sabemos que nuestra práctica gozosa nos ayuda a ser las personas que Dios quiere que seamos. Una buena manera de ayudar a los niños a encontrar el mismo gozo en nuestra fe es compartir lo que nosotros mismos amamos:

"Mi abuela rezó el rosario todos los días de su vida", dijo Lisa. "Cuando tuve la edad suficiente, me dio mi propio rosario y me enseñó a rezarlo. Esta oración me ha ayudado en momentos difíciles de mi vida y lo rezo a menudo con mis propios hijos".

"Disfruto celebrando los distintos tiempos del calendario litúrgico y señalando los momentos importantes de

nuestra fe", dijo Chris. "A mis hijos les encanta cambiar los colores de

nuestras decoraciones, cantar los himnos de cada tiempo y aprender las historias de los santos de antaño".

"Me aparté de la Iglesia cuando estaba en la universidad", dijo Erica. "Luego empecé a salir con un hombre que era un

católico devoto y fui unas cuantas veces a misa con él. Nos enamoramos y me pidió que fuera a confesar para que pudiéramos recibir juntos la comunión. Lo hice por él, pero sentí una gran emoción al

escuchar las palabras de la absolución y me di cuenta de que Jesús me había perdonado de verdad. Ahora les decimos a nuestros hijos que fue la confesión lo que nos unió".



### ¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

En la Iglesia primitiva, la mayoría de los bautizados eran adultos que se convertían al cristianismo. A causa de las persecuciones se necesitaban patrocinadores que confirmaran la integridad de los posibles conversos, llamados catecúmenos, para cerciorarse



### ¿Por qué eligen los católicos padrinos de bautismo?

de que no eran espías. Se encargaban también de la instrucción de los catecúmenos. Cuando el bautismo de los niños fue más común, los patrocinadores hacían la profesión de fe por los bebés y se responsabilizaban de educarlos en la fe si los padres no podían. Así se empezaron a emplear los términos "padrino" y "madrina".

## ¿Qué regalos ofrecerán a sus hijos?

Todos los padres cariñosos quieren dar regalos a sus hijos. Desafortunadamente, sabemos que los regalos que demos no proporcionarán felicidad duradera. Podemos, en cambio, rezar con frecuencia y con fervor pidiendo regalos que lo hagan. Procure incluir estos dones en sus peticiones como parte de su oración diaria por sus hijos:

**Sabiduría.** Pida para sus hijos la inspiración de evitar las malas decisiones y para que tengan la sabiduría de vivir una vida centrada en el evangelio.

**Valor.** Fortalezcalos para que defiendan la justicia y hablen contra el fanatismo, la injusticia y la crueldad.

**Fortaleza.** Rece para que al crecer logren resistir la



presión negativa de los compañeros.

**Compasión.** Ayúdelos a que sigan el mandamiento de Jesús de que nos amemos unos a otros.

**Discernimiento.** Proporcióneles la habilidad de elegir amistades sanas.

**Independencia.** Pida que a los niños les preocupe menos lo que otros piensan de ellos y que se interesen más en agradar a Dios.

**Fe.** Deles la fe en Dios, la creencia en las enseñanzas de Cristo, las Escrituras y la Iglesia Católica. Son los cimientos para una vida sana y la salvación eterna. Estos dones nos harán felices para siempre.

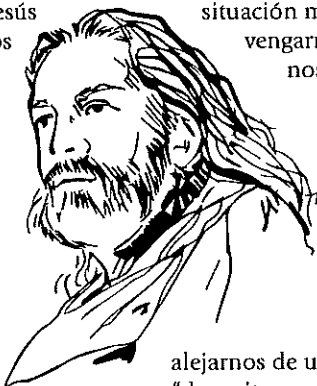
### Lecciones de las Escrituras

### Lucas 6:27-38; Amar como Dios

Este pasaje del evangelio explora conductas como la de Cristo con gente o situaciones difíciles. Jesús nos dice "amen a sus enemigos ... perdonen". Es fácil amar a nuestros amigos, pero casi imposible amar a los que nos tratan mal.

Amar es obrar para el bien de otra persona; no es (sólo) sentimiento. Sabemos que nuestro amor es auténtico cuando podemos rezar por nuestros enemigos, hacerle un favor a alguien que no puede correspondernos, responder a un insulto con amabilidad o reaccionar a la violencia con resistencia no violenta.

Perdonar a los demás significa que



dejamos de acusarlos en nuestros corazones. Es elegir no prolongar una situación mala con la esperanza de vengarnos. Cuando perdonamos nos liberamos: somos libres de seguir adelante con nuestra vida.

*¿Qué pueden hacer los padres?* Díganles a sus hijos que seguir a Cristo de verdad es hacer lo correcto aunque sea difícil o impopular. No aceptar retos imprudentes,

alejarnos de una riña y elegir no "desquitarnos" no son signos de debilidad sino de fortaleza de carácter. La señal más segura de que somos hijos de Dios es que amamos a los demás como él lo hace.

### Fiestas y celebraciones

2 de febrero – Presentación del Señor. De acuerdo con la ley de Moisés, María y José llevaron a Jesús al templo para realizar la ofrenda requerida a los cuarenta días de su nacimiento y Simeón alabó a Dios por revelar al Salvador tanto tiempo esperado.

21 de febrero – San Pedro Damián (1072). Puede que las carencias durante su infancia crearan en él un deseo por la vida austera. San Pedro Damián fue un monje disciplinado, pero fue llamado para servir como obispo durante muchos años y fue el consejero de siete papas. Se

retiró a vivir la vida monástica y murió al cuidado de sus hermanos monjes.

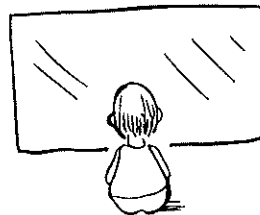
25 de febrero – San Cesario de Nazianzo (369). Hermano de san Gregorio de Nazianzo, san Cesario fue el médico del emperador Juliano el Apóstata. Julián trató de convencer a san Cesario de que renunciara a su fe, pero el santo se negó y renunció a su cargo. Tras sufrir un terrible terremoto en Nicea, decidió ser bautizado formalmente (en esa época muchas personas posponían el bautismo). Murió poco después.



### Hablan los padres

#### Limiten el tiempo de TV

Me preocupaba que mis hijos pasaran tanto tiempo frente a la pantalla. La mayoría de sus conversaciones trataba de



películas y programas de televisión. No se perdían sus programas favoritos, pero se perdían horas

enteras de su vida.

Mis preocupaciones se vieron confirmadas una noche en la que se fue la luz unas cuantas horas durante una larga tormenta. No había televisión, computadoras o iPads. Las niñas se aburrían y estaban de mal genio e inquietas. Finalmente encendí velas y saqué unos juegos de mesa. Jugamos al dominó, al Monopoly, al Trivial Pursuit. La luz volvió, pero Kara y papá estaban empataados y querían terminar de jugar.

Después de esa noche me di cuenta de que teníamos que cambiar algo. Para ganarse el tiempo de pantalla, los niños tenían que pasar tiempo leyendo, jugando al aire libre o haciendo las tareas de casa. Desde entonces han encontrado otras maneras de divertirse y no necesitan tanto sus aparatos.

#### Nuestra misión

Ayudar a los padres a educar a sus hijos como fieles católicos  
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January 2019

Dear Subscriber:

I am pleased to enclose the February issue of *Partners in Faith*. To download your personalized copy from the website, please follow the instructions listed below. Our emphasis this year is to help families raise lifelong disciples, centering family life on prayer, Sacraments, and joyful worship.

Please note a few highlights:

- We choose to be Catholic because we know joyful practice helps us to become the people God wants us to be. A good way to help children find the same joy in our Faith is to share what we love about it ourselves. Page one explains.
- All loving parents want to give their children gifts. Unfortunately, we know that the gifts we can give won't bring lasting happiness. Instead, we can pray for gifts that will. Our main article on page two gifts details.
- Our popular ParentTalk feature explains how one family addressed a screen-time overdose.

**Download your personalized issue:** Personalize and download your issues at [www.partnersinfaith.com](http://www.partnersinfaith.com). available during the second week of the prior month. You can upload the current issue to your parish or school website but please remove any prior issue so that only one issue is available at any time.

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Thank you for letting us support your efforts help families raise faithful Catholic children.

Sincerely,

*Lisa A. Anthony*  
 Lisa A. Anthony  
 Publisher

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