



Faith in Five- Children
Easter Week 5

- 1. Read John 14: 1-12 as a family. What is Jesus saying to His disciples?** Jesus is encouraging His disciples, “do not let your heart be troubled” and “I am going to prepare a place for you” and “Where I am going you know the way.” **Do His disciples understand what He is talking about?** No, Jesus’ disciples are confused. Thomas even questions Jesus, wanting to know where He is going and wondering how they are supposed to know the way? **Do YOU understand what Jesus is talking about?** Jesus is preparing His disciples for His Ascension into Heaven. He doesn’t want them to be fearful when they can’t see Him any longer AND he wants them to have hope that He prepares a place for them in Heaven! **Do the disciples understand that Jesus is one with God the Father in Heaven?** Not yet! Jesus is explaining “I am in the Father and the Father is in me” and urging them to accept this truth. We are so grateful the disciples DID accept this truth. These disciples will go forth and pass this truth on, the same faith we have today! They will also understand and accept their mission to evangelize after Jesus goes to the Father. “Amen, Amen I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these.”
- 2. Who does the Catholic church celebrate in May?** The Church celebrates Holy Mother Mary during the month of May! **What are we celebrating about Mary during May?** Look all around you in May, there is new life everywhere! The trees are all budding and flowers are blooming. We have new life in us too, because Jesus conquered sin and death by His Resurrection. Mary made all this possible when she said yes to God’s plan for her. We are full of gratitude for our Heavenly Queen and Mother who played such an important role in our salvation. **How can we honor Mary in May?** It is traditional to have a May Crowning to honor Mary! It may be hosted by your parish, but you can crown Mary at home too. Make or purchase a crown, have a small procession while singing Marian hymns and place your Mary statue in a place of honor in your home or yard. Pick a special person to place the crown on Mary and then kneel down together to thank Mary for being our Mother. This is a great time to pray the Glorious Mysteries!
- 3. Apologetics: Is it biblical for Catholics to honor Mary?** Absolutely! Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, proclaimed “Blessed are you among women!” Mary herself understood that “all generations shall call me blessed” because she carried Jesus in her womb. These quotes are from the Gospel of Luke. Mary was honored by others in the Bible, and we carry on the tradition today. **How can Mary be Queen of Heaven?** St. John had a vision of Mary in Heaven “and on her head a crown of twelve

stars.” (Revelation 12:1) In the old Testament, the great King Solomon honored his Mother as Queen. How much more would Christ the King honor His Mother as Queen?!

4. **Who is Blessed Imelda?** Blessed Imelda was born in Italy in 1322. From a very young age she lived a life of devotion, preferring to read the lives of the saints, pray and attend mass rather than playing with other children. Most of all, Blessed Imelda had a very strong longing to be united with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. **Did you know you had to be 14 years old to receive the Eucharist back when Imelda was a girl?** Her deep longing would go unfulfilled for many years. When she was 9, she went to live with nuns in a Dominican convent where she continued to yearn for the Eucharist, even asking for special permissions to receive. When she would watch the nuns receive the Eucharist she was in awe that they could welcome Jesus into their hearts and not die of happiness. **When did Blessed Imelda finally get to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?** On May 12, 1333, Imelda remained kneeling in prayer after mass. One of the sisters saw a glowing light, the Host, hanging above her. A sweet smell spread throughout the convent. The Sister ran to get the Priest and some of the other Sisters. The Priest, who had told Imelda she must wait until she was 14 before her First Holy Communion, saw that Jesus Himself wanted Imelda to receive. He took the Host from the air and gave Imelda her First Communion. In complete ecstasy, Blessed Imelda closed her eyes and immediately joined Jesus in heaven. Blessed Imelda is the patroness of First Communicants. *Blessed Imelda, pray for all those children receiving their First Holy Communion this month!*

5. **Catechism- Why did God make us?** God made us to show forth His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in Heaven. **What must we do to gain the happiness of Heaven?** To gain the happiness of heaven we must know, love and serve God in this world.” (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 1)

REVIEW QUESTION: What is Divine Tradition? Divine Tradition are the revealed truths taught by Christ and His Apostles that were given to the Church by word of mouth, instead of written down.

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