Faith in Five- Children
Ordinary Time Week 26

1. **Read Matthew 21:28-32 together as a family. What was the difference between the two sons in the parable?** One of the sons initially disobeyed his father's order to work in the fields but then decided to go work. The other son said he would go and work but didn't at all. **Why does Jesus say the chief priests are like the second son?** The chief priests hardened their hearts against John the Baptist and his message. They refused to have a change of mind and conversion. They followed laws but lacked love. **Who is entering the Kingdom of Heaven before them?** The tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of Heaven on account of their willingness to change and their openness of heart!

2. **Who is St. Therese of Lisieux?** St. Therese was a French Carmelite nun from France. She felt a very strong call to become a nun from a young age and had to get special permission from the Pope to do so! As a child she overcame the loss of her beloved mother, illness and a difficult disposition to choose to love and follow God. **Why is she called "the Little Flower?"** St. Therese felt weak in body and in spirit often! She didn't always feel like she was doing a great job as a nun or would never make it as a missionary but then she realized the little flowers of the field are just as loved and valued by God as the big roses and lily. **What is St. Therese's Little Way?** St. Therese's Little Way is a way to Heaven! In great humility and trust in God, Therese accepted her littleness. She did not try to be what she wasn't. Instead, she spent her vocation doing small acts of charity and mortification, knowing this was a ladder to heaven. The same is true for us. We don't need to do great, big, impactful things to reach sainthood. As Mother Teresa says, we need to do small things with great love. **Why is she a Doctor of the Church?** St. Therese is a doctor of the church because she revealed the truths of the faith to us! She taught a new way to respond to the mercy of God and his desire for salvation and sainthood for every single one of us, even the littlest and weakest!

3. **What is the Guardian Angel prayer?** *Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits thee here. Ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule, to guard.* The feast of the Holy Guardian Angels is October 2nd! What an amazing gift we have in a guardian angel. **How can we be devoted to our guardian angel?** Starting the day with the guardian angel prayer is perfect to invoke their intercession. Talk to your guardian angel! "Guardian angel, help me to obey my parents today. Help me to do the right thing at school! Please keep me from temptation!" **Can you name your guardian angel?** No, your guardian angel has already been named by God. Even though we

may not know their name while on earth, we can be assured of their constant care and protection of us! We would do well to grow in our relationship with our guardian angels as they aid us in our journey towards heaven!

4. **Apologetics- Why do you Catholics pray to dead people?** We ask the saints in Heaven to pray for us- but they are not dead! In Matthew 22:31-32 we read "Have you not read 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?' He is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Those who die in friendship with Christ are no longer on earth but they are very much alive in Christ in Heaven. October is a month of many wonderful saints!! These saints are like our big brothers and sisters in the faith, rooting for us on our way to heaven, aiding us by their prayers!

5. **Catechism- What do the saints do in Heaven?** From the Catholic Catechism of the Church, paragraph 2683, they "share in the living tradition of the prayer by the example of their lives, the transmission of their writings, and their prayer today. They contemplate God, praise him and continually care for those whom they have left on earth. When they entered into the joy of their master, they were 'put in charge of many things' and their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan." We can and should ask for them to intercede for us and for the whole world." **What does intercede mean?** It means to intervene, to ask for help on behalf of another. One example would be if you asked your dad if you could watch a movie and your mom interceded on your behalf by saying, "You really should let him watch a movie! He did all his chores and homework!" The saints love to intercede for us, it is all part of God's plan and the communion of saints!

REVIEW QUESTION: **Do you know the prayer to St. Michael?** *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell, all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.*

This is a free resource! For more information, check out www.acatholicmomslife.com