



Faith in Five- Children
Ordinary Time Week 29

1. **Read Matthew 22: 15-21 as a family. What do the plotting Pharisees ask Jesus?**

They ask if it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. At this time in history, Jesus' homeland and surrounding areas had been conquered by Rome and lived under Roman rule. The Pharisees think they may be able to get Jesus in trouble with the Roman rulers if Jesus tells his followers NOT to pay taxes. **How does Jesus answer?** "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Obeying our civil authorities falls under the 4th commandment. Being a Christian does not exempt us from being a lawful citizen. Jesus does have a bigger point here though! Most of us find it easier to obey our civil authorities than give to God what is his due. God gave us our very lives! **How can we make sure we are giving them back to him?** Giving Jesus the first and last moments of our days, frequenting the sacraments and doing our best to worship him attentively at mass. We want to be generous with our free time, to offer it to God and to works of charity. Taking time for modest relaxation and recreation is also a way to honor and refresh the bodies and souls given us!

2. **Who is St. Anthony Mary Claret?** Antonio was born in 1807 to a devout Christian family. Sadly, he and his family had to flee from their home as war broke out in his home country of Sallent. He is strengthened by a deep friendship with Jesus and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He loved praying the rosary and visiting the chapel. **What does he do when he grows up?** He hears the call to become a priest when he is only 12 years old. Unable to study Latin because of government school closures, he goes to work for the family textile business. He does so well that he begins to forget his vocation. He finally enters a seminary, hoping to become a monk. He is actually ordained a priest before he even finishes his studies because his Bishop saw something special in him. After 4 years as a parish priest in Sallent, he set out to become a missionary. He was encouraged to join the Jesuits but severe pain in his leg re-routed his vocation once again. This time he heals and preaches in Viladrau and begins to preach missions in all the surrounding areas. **What did he do as a missionary?** He preached on foot, walking much of Catalonia simply preaching the word of God. He gave retreats for priests and religious sisters and even founded a religious library. Now he could print prayer books, and catechisms. He also founded the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Claretians. He then is appointed as Bishop of Cuba. In Cuba he fights against slavery, and creates farm schools for poor children. While working tirelessly in Cuba, he is called to Spain to be confessor to Queen Isabel III! Here he continues to preach, write and visit prisons and hospitals. He even

accompanies Queen Isabel II into exile! **What is St. Anthony Mary Claret the patron saint of?** He is the patron saint of weavers. His feast day is October 24th.

- 3. What do Catholics mean when they say they have a patron saint?** We can have connections to a particular saint for various reasons. Many Catholics are named after a saint. That is a very special way to have a relationship with a saint! You can be sure that your name saint is praying for you! Some Catholics are devoted to the saint whose feast day falls on their birthday. When you get confirmed, you choose a saint you admire to ask for their prayers and take their name as your confirmation name. Sometimes we are just drawn to a certain saint after reading their story. The saints are an incredible treasure of the Catholic faith!
- 4. What are the guidelines for receiving the Holy Eucharist?** The first requirement is to be in a state of grace. This means you have confessed any mortal sins. We also must observe the Eucharistic fast. This means no eating or drinking (except water) one hour before receiving the Blessed Sacrament. **Why is there a Eucharistic fast?** It helps us prepare our bodies and souls to meet our Lord in the Sacrament. We make room in our soul by confessing sin. And we make room in our body by fasting. This helps us truly appreciate the sacrament!
- 5. Can Catholics celebrate Halloween?** Yes! Halloween belongs to the Catholic Church, as it means the eve of All Saint's Day. All Saint's Day is one of our faith's most solemn feasts! However, in many cultures, Halloween is a night used for evil. As Christians, we must celebrate in a way that restores the true feast and allows us to be a light to our culture. We don't participate in scary or evil decorations and choose our costumes carefully. The Catholic Church has not placed any restrictions on trick-or-treating but it is up to each family whether or not it is appropriate for them to participate.

REVIEW QUESTION: What is the Fatima prayer? *O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy.*
When do we say this prayer? This prayer is recited after the Glory Be at the end of each rosary decade.

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