

Family Page

Background Reflection

In the Scripture passage for today's lesson, we are reminded that there is a standard we as Christians must live up to. We are called to be humble, gentle, patient, and tolerant, and we are called to preserve unity. Each of us has been given gifts to help build up the Body of Christ through love.

The sacraments help us in our mission. In Baptism, we are given an indelible mark that signifies we are a child of God. In Confirmation, we are anointed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit to do God's will. In the Eucharist, we share in the Body and Blood of Christ. We can be healed spiritually or physically through Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick, and each of us has been given a vocation that is essential and valuable to God.

Each of us has a purpose to our lives. The main way that we discover this purpose, our vocation, is through prayer. We are all a part of the Body of Christ and have unique gifts. By sharing our gifts and respecting the gifts of others, we build up the Kingdom of God and help bring hope and love to the world.

Family Activities

- Work a jigsaw puzzle with your child, and note that each piece is unique and serves a specific purpose. Make connections between the puzzle and the way our personal gifts and vocations serve a unique purpose in the Body of Christ.
- Think of a family friend or relative who is a role model in using their gifts to love and serve others. Do something special for that person this week.
- Watch the video "Mother Teresa Quotes—Catholic Speaker Ken Yasinski Inspirational quotes by St Teresa of Calcutta" (YouTube, 2:48) together. Create posters with the three quotes that are most meaningful to your child, and display them on the refrigerator.

People of Faith

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821)

Saint Elizabeth Ann was born in New York City. She converted to Catholicism, along with her children, after her husband's death. Elizabeth opened the first Catholic school in the United States. Soon after, she started the Sisters of Charity, to teach children and serve the poor. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton is the first American-born saint. We celebrate her feast day on January 4.

Prayer

Find and pray "A Prayer to Jesus," by Saint Richard of Chichester, on page 1993 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

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