

## Letter for Families • Ordinary Time

### Getting Ready

Your children have learned in their religion classes about the celebration of Ordinary Time. The Church celebrates her life and history on a yearly cycle called the liturgical year. All the seasons and feast of the Church's liturgical year help us remember the story of God's love for us and enables us to take part in God's loving plan of salvation.

Advent, Christmas, Lent, the Triduum Easter, and Ordinary Time are the seasons of the Church's year. The longest part of the Church's year is called Ordinary Time. The word *ordinary* comes from a Latin word meaning "number." During Ordinary Time the Sundays and weeks are named by the use of numbers; for example, the thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

All through Ordinary Time, we join with the disciples. We walk along the Sea of Galilee and into Capernaum and other towns and villages.

All the time, we listen, we watch and we learn from our Teacher, Jesus, what it means to be his disciple.

### Looking for More?

- *Teaching Kids the Basics of the Liturgy: Making Rituals More Meaningful* by Robert Duggan (Resources for Christian Living). Explains the Mass and traditions of the Church in simple yet profound terms.
- *The Parables of Jesus* by Tomie de Paola (Holiday house, Inc.). A retelling of some parables of Jesus with beautiful illustrations.

### Faith First.com

For more ideas on how your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at [www.FaithFirst.com](http://www.FaithFirst.com). Click on "Bible Stories" Here you will find stories from the Bible written especially for children.



### Catholic Family Traditions

From the Middle Ages until the 1950's, the Church celebrated Rogation Days many places. These were days of prayer and fasting. There were often processions at planting and harvest times to pray in petition or thanksgiving for a bountiful growing season and harvest. You might create a "Rogation Day" in the spring to pray for God's blessing for farmers. Make a sacrifice that day, such as foregoing dessert or a favorite T.V. show. In the fall, take a trip to a roadside stand to choose pumpkins or other harvest vegetables. Prepare a meal from these harvest foods and offer a special blessing of thanksgiving for the bounty of the year's harvest.