



# SJB HIGHLIGHTS

January 20, 2011

## SPIRITUAL VALUES IN FAMILY LIFE



We live in a high risk age, one where stability, cohesiveness, and continuity are sought for amidst the shifting sands of moral and cultural values. The pace of life has singularly impacted the family, long, and still, considered the basic unit of our society. If individuals are looking to spirituality for a personal sense of direction, so, too, must spirituality be looked to as a primary resource for families.

**The ordinary moments of daily living**

### “The Church of the Home”

Do you remember as a child weaving your fingers together inwardly toward the palms of your hands and reciting the verse, “Here’s the Church, here’s the steeple, open the door and see all the people?”

Family life is sacred because family relationships confirm and deepen the union with Christ we acquired at our Baptism. The ordinary moments of daily living--preparing meals, caring for a sick member, cleaning the house, relaxing or vacationing together, holding family meetings--are some of the ordinary ways a family can weave together a pattern of holiness.

### Challenges of Family Life

Families today often feel besieged by overwhelming demands, and because of it, are greatly in need of support. In addition, challenges to families, pressure from jobs, civil groups, relatives, friends, health

concerns, and

the ever present financial concerns can be real impediments to fulfilling the primary role of family.

### We Are One Family

Parents are in a unique position,

one in which we can assist families to *be* the Body of Christ in the home—settings where unconditional love, affirmation, responsibility, and forgiveness are known; places where rituals, symbols, and stories of faith are shared.

Families should know that they are not holy because they are “perfect,” but because God’s grace is at work in them, helping them to set out every day on the way of love. Are we not all on the journey? Families share One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism; we are all one family of Christ.

### Author:

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## The Solis Family

The Solis family was so excited to be pictured with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and we are grateful that they have given us this picture capturing their joy.

Be sure to take a family picture with the Archbishop when he visits your parish and share the picture with your Bosco family. Be sure to tell the Archbishop that you are from St. John Bsoco School!

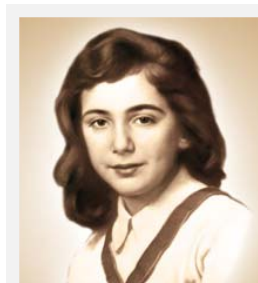
Join us February 3, 2012 for our regular Morning Assembly at 8:30 P.M. On this day it will be far from ordinary. The Archbishop will be with us to give the



Good Morning and his special blessing. It won't take long, so take a little time from work to join us and benefit from this grace.

On this day, the children will go directly to their classroom and meet on the walk-way in front of the gym with streamers to greet the Archbishop then escort him into the gym for a special Good Morning. Our Minis, Cheer, Pep and Dance squads will perform their now famous "Behold", the Magnificat according to Kaufman as an expression of our love and fidelity to our Archbishop. Then he will be presented with a Don Bosco keepsake and a gift of one of his favorite things . . . Chocolates!

Our diocese is blessed with a wonderful Shepherd, leader, father and friend. St. John Bosco is blessed to host him on February 3, 2012.



Blessed Laura Vicuna

Laura was the daughter of Jose Domingo Vicuna and Mercedes Pino. Her father was a soldier, and Laura was born three months after the outbreak of civil war in Chile.



With her husband at arms, and herself and her infant in peril, Laura's mother moved across the Andes to raise Laura in Las Lajas, Argentina. Laura's father was killed, leaving Mercedes desperately struggling to provide for two young daughters. Out of desperation, Mercedes became the mistress and common-law wife of a man named Manuel Mora.

Mora paid for Laura to attend a boarding school run by the Salesian Sisters, where Laura was extremely happy and helpful. She made her First Communion on June 2, June 1901, a decisive moment in her

life. "Oh my God, I want to love you and serve you all my life," she wrote in her notebook. "I give you my soul, my heart, my whole self." She tried then, at age ten, to join the Salesians, but her bishop recommended she wait.

Christmas of 1901 would be a Christmas of horror and heroism. When she went home for the holidays, she had to fend off the repeated amorous advances of Mora, finally being forced to flee the house to avoid him. She prayed to be spared the life her mother was leading, offered her own life if they could escape from it, and asked her confessor again for permission to join the Salesians. Finally she received permission and joined the Sodality of the Children of Mary on December 8, 1901.

In late 1903, Laura became severely ill, and returned to her mother. On January 14<sup>th</sup>, in a drunken rage, Mora began his abuses once again. Laura tried to run from the house, but Mora caught her and beat her unconscious. Though she recovered consciousness, Laura never recovered her health, dying eight days later from a combination of illness and abuse. When Mercedes learned of her daughter's offer to die for the sake of her mother, Mercedes left

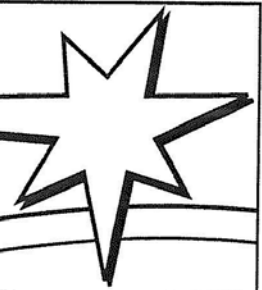


Mora and turned eighty more days of school left! church.

100 day **CELEBRATION!**  
re-turned  
to the  
eighty more days  
of school left!  
church.



Look for your  
Registration packets  
for the summer  
and for next year  
2012 - 2013  
they went out today!



## Thoughtful Moments

### Resolutions

The New Year is a good time to set resolutions that will help us grow in character. Even young children can form resolutions that will help them improve. The key is to pick age-appropriate resolutions they can actually accomplish. A good rule of thumb is, the younger the child the fewer the resolutions.



### Make it last

Don't take the Christmas tree down just yet. The retail Christmas season starts so early that by the time December 25th comes, we are ready to stuff the decorations away for another year. But for the Church, the Christmas season starts on the 25th and goes until January 9th, the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, the true end of the Christmas Season.

### Parents' advice

*"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; graceful diadem will they be for your head; a pendant for your neck"* (Proverbs 1:8-9).

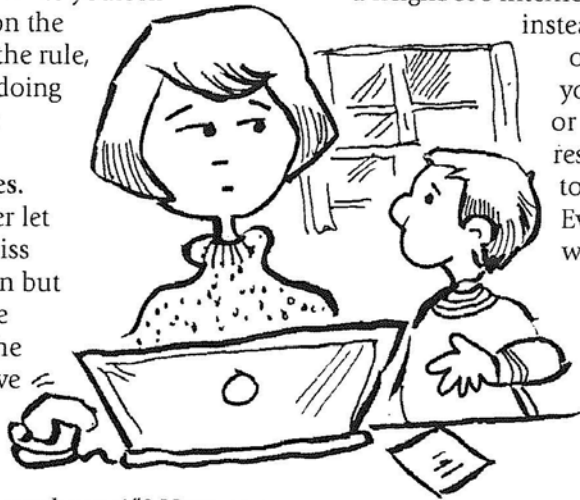


## Are you teaching your children to sin?

Sounds like a silly question, doesn't it? No Christian parent would teach a child to sin. But, if whether or not you follow God's rules yourself depends upon the situation or the rule, you may be doing just that. For example:

**"White" lies.**

Have you ever let your child miss school for fun but sent in a note saying that she was sick? Have you dodged a phone call by saying, "tell him I'm not home!"? Have you snuck extra items on the express grocery line? If so, you demonstrated that it's okay to break God's law about telling the truth. How can children tell when to stop?



**"Thou shall steal?"** Do you download copyrighted movies and music without paying? Do you tap into a neighbor's internet or cable service

instead of buying your own? Do you help yourself to napkins or silverware from restaurants or take towels from hotels? Even if the victim is wealthy, you are breaking God's law against stealing.

**Do as I do.** To our children, what we do is more powerful than what we say. *"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea"* (Matthew 18:6).

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why are there statues and images in our churches?

In the early days of the Church, many of the faithful couldn't read or write. Images, icons, and statues in our churches served as teaching tools and spiritual aids.

Today, images of the Crucifix remind us of Jesus' sacrifice and



Resurrection. Statues of Mary and the saints recall their heroism and remind us of what we can become. These tools call us to better efforts at holiness, and urge us to ask God for the grace to keep trying for saintliness.

## Catholic families shine with love

Pope Benedict recently said that just like the Catholic Church as a whole, the Catholic family is called to "welcome, radiate and show the world the love and presence of Christ." This love is evident when we:

**Care for and educate our children.** And studies have shown that youth who feel loved and cared for are more likely to avoid risky behavior like indulging in drugs, alcohol, and sexual activity.

**Care for the poor.** Families that make a regular practice of helping the poor teach



children compassion, empathy, and love of neighbor.

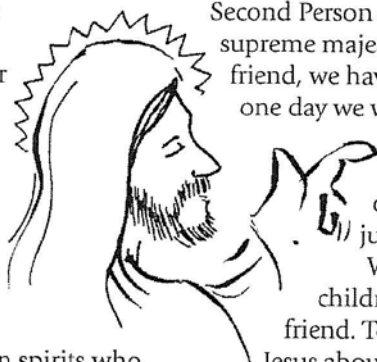
**Care for our local parish.** Without each of us, our parishes can't pay bills, perform necessary ministries or do God's work. Becoming active in and supporting the parish at a young age helps build a child's Catholic identity, and that helps to "radiate" the presence of Christ as an adult.

**Strike a balance between work and play.** Work is important, but it is often during the family time when we make loving memories that will last a lifetime.

### Scripture LESSON

### Mark 1:21-28, My Buddy or My God?

This Gospel describes Jesus and his apostles entering the synagogue at Capernaum. Jesus taught those gathered for the Sabbath. Most teachers or prophets would have said, "Thus says the Lord..." But Jesus said something like, "I tell you..." He taught as one who had the authority of God and that astonished his listeners. Even the unclean spirits who tortured a man at the synagogue recognized who Jesus was.



treat Jesus as a buddy and he wants us to trust and rely on him. But as the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus has supreme majesty. While he is our friend, we have to remember that one day we will appear

before him on bended knee. He is our divine savior, not just our buddy.

We can explain to our children that Jesus is our friend. Teach children to talk to Jesus about anything that happens, good or bad. At the same time, stress that Jesus is God and deserves to be worshipped and adored.

As a kind and gentle soul, it is easy to

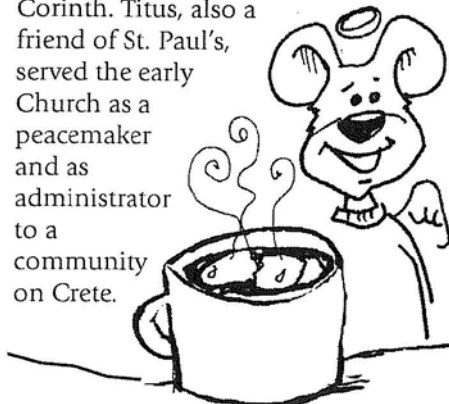
### Feasts & Celebrations

In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. "...At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

**January 1 - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.** When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God.

**January 24 - St. Francis de Sales (1622).** As bishop of Geneva, St. Francis bolstered the faith of others by his writings and works. For the laity, St. Francis wrote Introduction to the Devout Life, which is as applicable today as it was in his day.

**January 26 - Sts. Timothy and Titus (1st century)** Timothy was converted by St. Paul and later became his trusted friend joining him in apostolic work. He was with Paul at the founding of the Church in Corinth. Titus, also a friend of St. Paul's, served the early Church as a peacemaker and as administrator to a community on Crete.



### Parent TALK

Jeff's job was in jeopardy and we were both worried. We thought we were hiding our concern until I got a call from our third-grader's teacher.



Mrs. Conboy said that Leslie was becoming argumentative, bossing other students around, and even told Mrs.

Conboy that she wished she would be "more proactive," something I had said to Jeff just a few nights before. Mrs. Conboy chuckled, but I didn't find it funny. We obviously weren't doing a good job of hiding our tension and Leslie was mimicking my behavior.

Before dinner that night, we prayed a family Rosary and talked with the children. We also acknowledged that we have been worried about Jeff's job but also said we knew that God would take care of us. We promised to pray more and worry less.

The atmosphere in the house got lighter and I didn't get any more phone calls from school.

### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

*Thank You*



# Salesian Sisters

## Valentine Cookie Sale



**Pre-Sale Only**

### Salesian Sisters Provincial House

6019 Buena Vista

San Antonio, TX 78237

Phone: (210)-432-1919

Friday, Sunday and Monday

February 10, 12 and 13

From 9:00 AM to 6:00PM

Decorated Cookie Plates Ready for Gifts

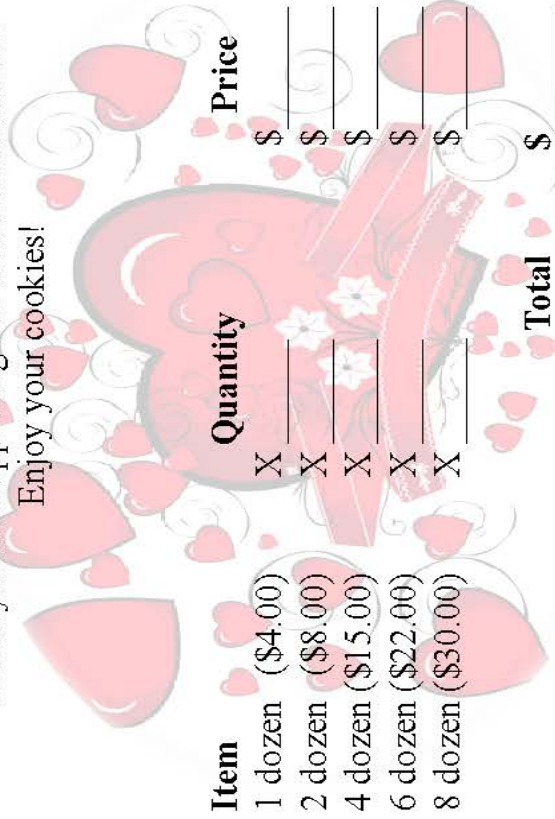
# Salesian Sisters Valentine Cookie Sale

KEEP THIS ORDER FORM FOR PICK-UP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting our Cookie Fundraiser!

Enjoy your cookies!



Item	Quantity	Price
1 dozen (\$4.00)	X _____	\$ _____
2 dozen (\$8.00)	X _____	\$ _____
4 dozen (\$15.00)	X _____	\$ _____
6 dozen (\$22.00)	X _____	\$ _____
8 dozen (\$30.00)	X _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

Thanks again for your order!

## **Note:**

Please keep this order form and bring it with you when you come to the Provincial House to pick up your cookie order.

Thanks!

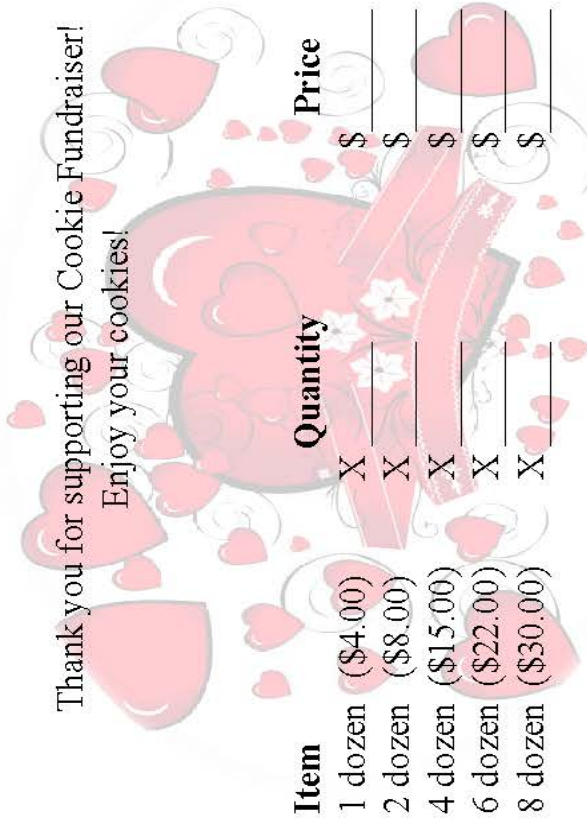
# Salesian Sisters Valentine Cookie Sale

RETURN THIS FORM TO ST. JOHN BOSCO SCHOOL  
BY FEBRUARY 03, 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting our Cookie Fundraiser!

Enjoy your cookies!



Item	Quantity	Price
1 dozen (\$4.00)	X _____	\$ _____
2 dozen (\$8.00)	X _____	\$ _____
4 dozen (\$15.00)	X _____	\$ _____
6 dozen (\$22.00)	X _____	\$ _____
8 dozen (\$30.00)	X _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

(CASH ONLY)

Enclose this form with the exact amount of cash in an envelope labeled Cookie Fundraiser. Then come with the left side of this form to pick up your order from the Provincial House on Friday, Sunday or Monday . . . February 10th, 12th and 13th. You may come any time between 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

God bless you for your help by placing this order!