Do you ever feel like a crummy parent? I sure do sometimes. It can feel like I’m trying so hard to tell my children the right things to do, or believe, that I forget that they’re kids and need to have fun. Thankfully, my wife is great at reminding me of this, especially when it comes to handing on the faith. For the faith to be meaningful to children, there needs to be an element of fun. Kids are drawn to joy and laughter; they want to have fun! Maybe that’s why it’s so important for adults to remember to let the “little kid” inside of them out every now and then.

Years ago, I went through a challenging time in my faith. After being raised in a home with a connection to the church, though we didn’t attend every Sunday unfortunately, I ventured off to college where it was now my decision to attend Mass or not. I made the decision not to, and for 3 years I basically had no relationship with God. Thankfully God waited patiently for me, and after a series of circumstances including the death of a friend, I was drawn back to Jesus. I decided to return to Mass, start reading the bible with friends, and live a life more pleasing to God. If it hadn’t been for the great memories I had growing up in the church, I believe I would have looked elsewhere. Joy in the faith is important for

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...” - Galatians 5:22 (NABRE)
children so they have fond memories of the church when they are older. They need to see the church as a safe haven when they are “lost at sea” one day. I pray they never go astray like I did, but if they do, they need to know the church is there for them.

How are you helping the children in your life experience the faith in a joyful way? How are you making it fun and engaging for them to follow Jesus? The diocese is planning a fun event for families on May 22, and we’d love to have you join us. It will take place from 9am to noon at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria and feature games, crafts, prayer, and cake! Who doesn’t like cake? And it’s just $20 per family. Sign up to come by visiting www.victoriadiocese.org/fiat or call 361-573-0828 x 2265.

In addition to events like this, I encourage you to check out great books and games for kids to help them understand the faith. One great website it www.katiewarner.com featuring great books for children and parents. Another is www.catholicicing.com with lots of great free resources like crafts, games and more. Not to mention great video resources like Brother Francis and others available on www.formed.org. There has never been more resources than now to make the faith fun and engaging for kids.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this newsletter. Below are upcoming events around the diocese you may find interesting and helpful for your walk with God, or that of your loved ones. Until next month, may God watch over us and our families, helping us to live as families of joy each and every day.

Marriage & Family Ambassadors
Spring Semi-Formal Gala - Friday, June 4, 2021

Please join us for dinner and an evening of inspiration for your marriage and ministry. Guest speakers include:
• Most Reverend Brendan Cahill
• Deacon John & Eileen McCourt

Date: Friday, June 4, 2021
Time: 7:00-9:00PM
Location: Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center in Victoria, Texas
Cost: $25/couple, $15/individual
Attire: Semi-Formal

Register at www.victoriadiocese.org/family-ambassadors

An Evening with Father Donald Calloway, MIC
Author of “Consecration to St. Joseph”

Thursday, May 27, 2021
Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center
2001 N. Laurent St, Victoria, TX 77901
Doors open at 6:15pm
Presentation & Book Signing at 7pm
Tickets must be purchased in advance in one of two ways: online at www.victoriadiocese.org/fiat, or by mailing in the below form with payment for $20 per seat or three seats for $50 (ent. 3 seats per purchase). Tickets will be claimed at the door the night of the event under name of purchaser. Space is limited.

Register at www.victoriadiocese.org/father-calloway

Strength for the Journey
A Grief Ministry for Parents who have lost their child

Monthly meetings take place from 6:30-8pm at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Ganado. Next meeting is May 11.
https://www.victoriadiocese.org/grief-support

All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, all in union with St. Joseph. Amen.