

## Who is God's real child?

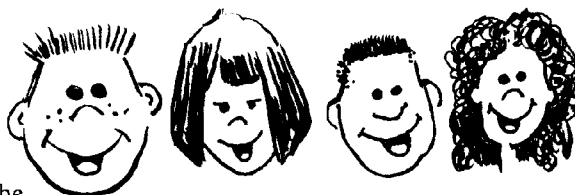
What do God's real children look like? Where can they be found? Whom does he love best?

The truth is we are everywhere and God loves us equally and intensely. Those of us who love him back know that it's not just important to love each other, too. It's God's law.

How can we break down the barriers that separate us from God's other children?

**Don't just tolerate diversity - celebrate it.** Invite foreigners or people who are different from you to your

home, church, or neighborhood. Remember, there is great diversity in the Communion of Saints.



**Practice patience.** It can be tough to listen to someone with a heavy accent or a different cultural point of view. Perhaps it would help to imagine the face of Christ in the faces around you. Don't forget; we're all part of his Body.

**Make your voice heard.** Speak up against racial or ethnic prejudice, and be positive about cultural diversity if friends or relatives start criticizing others' faith or cultures.

## from Scripture

**Luke 24:35-38; Jesus makes "authenticating seconds" of his disciples.**

Jewish tradition held that legal testimony had to be confirmed by an "authenticating second" to be considered truth. Someone else had to give witness to the facts. Jesus tapped that tradition when he appeared to his disciples together - they each became authenticating seconds to his Resurrection. Credibility was added by their eye-witness accounts.

However, Jesus knew that his



disciples were ordinary humans. They needed help to fully understand him, so Jesus "opened their minds." He helped them to connect their experience with him to Scripture.

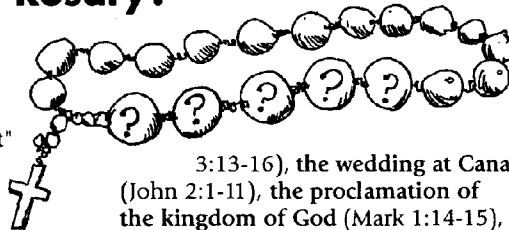
Like the first disciples, we cannot understand Jesus until our minds have been opened by our personal experience with him and by our faith in his resurrection. Without it, we can know a lot about him but never understand him or all that he has in store for us.

The Holy Spirit made it possible for the first disciples to witness about Christ, and the Holy Spirit calls us to be today's authenticating seconds for Jesus.

## Q & A What are the new mysteries the Pope added to the Rosary?

In *The Rosary of the Virgin Mary*, Pope John Paul II offered "the mysteries of light" to add fresh life and renew interest in his favorite prayer. While it invokes Mary, the Pope calls the Rosary a "Christ-centered prayer," because it is centered on the gospel message. Thus he felt it was fitting to add the events of Christ's ministry between his Baptism and his Passion.

"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). The luminous mysteries are: **Jesus' baptism in the Jordan** (Matthew



3:13-16), the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11), the proclamation of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15), the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8), and the Last Supper/First Eucharist (Matthew 26).

The Pope is disturbed by the lack of peace in the world. He urges Catholics to pray the Rosary as a peace prayer because it focuses on the Prince of Peace. "Anyone who assimilates the mystery of Christ learns the secret of peace and makes it a life's project."

## Feasts & Celebrations

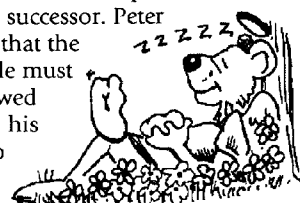
In May we honor our mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Three ways to grow closer to Mary include praying to her, honoring her feast days, and praising her to others.

**May 2 - St. Athanasius (373).** Born a Christian in Egypt, St. Athanasius became a priest and a great defender of the Catholic faith. As a result of terrible persecution of the Church, he was exiled six times during his life.

**May 9 - Ascension of the Lord.** This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. (Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51)

*Note: In some dioceses, observance has been moved to the following Sunday.*

**May 14 - St. Matthias (1st century).** When Judas died, the apostles met to choose his successor. Peter stipulated that the new apostle must have followed Jesus from his baptism to his ascension, and also witnessed his resurrection. St. Matthias was chosen by lots.



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