

Handbook for Today's Catholic Children

Francine M. O'Connor



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Introduction

Do you know that God is your very best friend? Do you know where Jesus is right now? Do you ever wonder if God really hears your prayers?

This booklet will help you answer these questions. This is your very own handbook about your Catholic faith. As you read through it, you will learn how special you are to God and to your Church family.

To the Parent

This booklet is patterned after the best-selling *Handbook for Today's Catholic*. Chapters have been titled for your child's level of understanding. For your benefit, the basic message of each chapter is in parentheses after each title. Have fun learning with your child and getting to know God together.

CHAPTER 1

You and God: Friends Forever *(Intimacy With God)*

Friends are the most fantastic people in your life! You have had some friends for as long as you can remember. Your parents and brothers and sisters are your longtime friends. Some friendships are brand new.

When you meet a new friend, you want to know all about that person. You want to tell your new friend all about yourself.



It is truly wonderful to have many friends. Friends keep you company when you are lonely. They hug you when you are sad. They share games and fun with you. They help you when you are worried or confused. They teach you how to be a good friend.

The Greatest Friend of All

God is your longest-time friend. God loved you even before you were born. A very long time ago, God had a good idea. YOU were God's good idea. First, God thought of you. Then God made you to be his friend. You are very precious to God.

Have you ever made something all by yourself? Maybe you drew a picture for someone special. Maybe you built a birdhouse with a hammer, nails, glue, and paint. Maybe you made a splendid sandcastle on the beach.

Do you remember how good you felt about what you made? You were pleased and proud! That's how God feels about you. God is proud of what he has created. God is very pleased with you.

God made everything about you, and so everything about you is wonderful. Your mind is wonderful. Your body is wonderful. Your soul is wonderful.

God is a lot like your other friends, only better. God keeps you company when you are lonely. God shares your happy times with you. God comforts you when you are sad. God helps you when you are worried and guides you when you are confused. God teaches you to be a good friend to others.

Learning About Your Friend, God

Because God is such a special friend, you want to know all about him. You want to know who God is and how you can be close to him. You want to know where to find God when you need him and how to be a better friend to him.

God will teach you all these things. God has chosen many ways to make himself known to you. This booklet will tell you about some of those ways. You will learn about God's love for you and your love for God. You will learn about God's love for others and your love for others. You will learn about God's family, God's angels and saints, and God's Church. You will begin a friendship with God that will last forever and ever.

What an exciting adventure! You and God: friends forever.

P R A Y E R

Thank you, God, for being my friend.

This is a wonderful adventure.

*I want to learn all about you
so I can love you more and love others better.*

*Help me understand all that I read
in this booklet.*

Amen.

