

*TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis*  
**Home Kit**  
**The Battle of Prayer—WEEK 3**

***Before you Begin:***

Set table with a religious article (a crucifix, statue of Jesus or Mary, and/or a candle are examples). Be prepared with Bible, Catechism, Children's Folders (Textbook and Assignments), and supplies of pencil or pen.

**Start with Family Prayer**

Yes, the battle of prayer is real.

Besides the principal difficulties of prayer (Distraction and Dryness) there are also two frequent temptations that threaten prayer: Lack of Faith and Acedia—spiritual sloth or laziness that leads to discouragement.

However, we should not be discouraged.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own in sight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.  
- Proverbs 3:5-6*

Here are three things to remember about prayer:

1. God hears all our prayers and God cares about all of our prayers.
2. God answers all of our prayers. God doesn't always answer them in the way we want. God has his own answers and knows what is best for us.
3. Don't stop praying. Never give up. Have faith in God and His love.

**Discussion with your Family:**

Prayer is powerful! Prayer is good! Prayer shows God that we love Him!

Name different ways to pray alone and with your family.

It is good to pray all the time! Take time right now to pray for all the needs and concerns of your family, and thank God for all the blessings and joys He has given to you.

***Everybody needs a little TLC!***

# + ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

## Lessons in holiness from the pro's who have gone before us

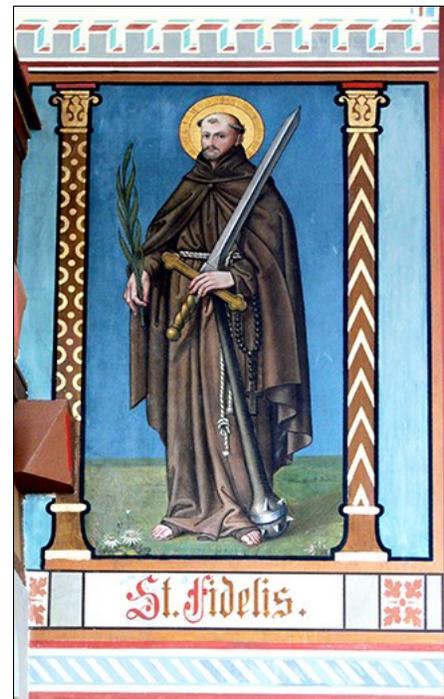
# Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen

*Feast Day: April 24*

Fidelis, born in 1577 at Sigmaringen, Prussia, was a man of many names. Mark Roy was his baptismal name, Fidelis his religious name, and poor man's lawyer his nickname. All his life, Mark Roy was known for his generosity.

After receiving his doctorate in philosophy and law, he tutored young boys from noble families. But his heart was with those who were poor. He established himself as a lawyer and took only those cases that upheld the cause of those who were poor and oppressed. Inspired to search for a deeper, more committed life of serving God, Mark decided to enter the Franciscans. He distributed his wealth among people in need and made religious vows. He was soon chosen as superior.

While Fidelis was guardian of the monastery, an epidemic broke out in the city, and Fidelis opened up the friary to care for those who were sick. He cured many soldiers staying there. In 1608, Protestantism swept through Switzerland, and because Fidelis was a good preacher, he was sent by the Propagation of the Faith to bring the Swiss people back to unity with the Church of Rome. People claimed his best results came from the hours he spent in prayer late at night. It was a dangerous mission. The people in revolt against the Catholic Church hated anyone connected with it. But Fidelis put his life in the hands of God. At Seewis in 1622, a gun was fired at him as he preached, but he escaped unharmed. Later, however, he was slain in the church by angry peasants.



<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-fidelis-of-sigmaringen>

## GOSPEL READING

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

### April 2, 2017

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/040217.cfm>

## Family Connection

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the [Apostles' Creed](#) or the [Nicene Creed](#).

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fifth-sunday-of-lent-cycle-a-sunday-connection>