

## HOMILY HINTS

### NOVEMBER 16: CHILDREN'S DAY

*(Children's Day, usually celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> November could be celebrated on the same day or the succeeding Sunday)*

- Talk to the children about any celebration – a birthday, let's say, and what goes into preparing for the same. Ask them how they plan the celebration. They generally speak of friend's list, food, venue, music, prizes, etc.
- Ask them why they have to prepare. They may say so that all will fall into place, it will be successful and everyone will have fun.
- Speak of the Eucharist as a celebration where everyone is invited, no one is left out and how the children should be prepared for the celebration, because Jesus is the host of the celebration.
- Speak of preparation before the Eucharist, of sitting down and reflecting on what to thank God for, on what to ask God for. Then the preparation to go to church on time for Mass. To be punctual.
- Then once in Church to participate in the celebration – the singing of hymns and the recitation of prayers. Paying attention to the Word of God. The homily.
- Then with the gifts of bread and wine, one has to offer one's needs to the Lord, also one's difficulty.
- Then preparing for Holy Communion, for Jesus to enter our bodies and hearts. When receiving Jesus to say "Amen" as expressing our belief in the presence of Jesus.
- And after receiving Jesus, to pray without any distraction. To thank God and to pray to Him.
- When the priest gives the final blessing it is the responsibility of every Catholic to go and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel by word and action.