

A Vacation with God

Greetings as summer starts!

“They’re off!” Announcers at horse races say those words with unbridled enthusiasm; those of us who are parents proclaim them with relief (hooray for lighter schedules and less racing around) and dread (cries of “I’m bored!” and a new level of clutter will surround us). While our children, not to mention our teachers, need a significant break from their academic endeavors, there is no reason to think that somehow because our formal religious education programs are complete for the school year that our children’s catechesis is on hold.

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Catholicism is a profoundly embodied and ritually symbolic expression of Christianity. This season, a time where we are outside and enjoying creation even more fully, offers countless experiences that can tie our sacred stories



with the sacramental. A star-filled sky overhead becomes a moment to talk about the covenant with Abraham, and to reflect on the countless descendants predicted. A roaring campfire reminds us of the pillar of fire and the burning bush, and provides us a time to talk about the new fire of the Easter Vigil and the lighting of the baptismal candle. Water fun can include time to talk about why water is so

refreshing and so essential in life, tying in the meaning of the waters of Baptism. Time in the car on a trip (“Are we there yet!?!”) offers an opening to talk about a people who wandered forty years, a God who sojourned forty days in a desert, followers who walked a road dejected and without hope until he visited them and they remembered him.

May you find many moments that bridge today with the faith that went before us as you enjoy your summer. And remember that Jesus loved eating with people: be sure s’mores are included!