

TEACHING THE LANGUAGE OF THE FAITH series

Board Book #1 *The Saving Name of God the Son*

22 pages; art by Fra Angelico, used with permission
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The purpose of the series, “Teaching the Language of the Faith,” is to acquaint young children with language pertinent to comprehending and growing in their baptismal faith. The series takes the form of read-aloud books that foster reflective interaction between the child and adult reader. As children gain a foundational familiarity with words and images relevant to Christian truth, they will be more ready to make deeper spiritual connections at each stage of their faith formation. Since the language of the Christian Faith is conveyed not merely in words, but also in images, thoughtful religious art has been chosen to inter-relate with the text, with the intention of each extending the meaning of the other. Because the books, though geared for the young, are presenting objective spiritual realities, it is hoped that the adult, who is reading aloud to the child, may not only be inspired in the role of guide, but may also be edified personally as he or she is drawn anew into the truth and beauty of Christian mystery.

The first titles are in a board book format, geared approximately for ages 2-5 (with possible interest and use for children both younger and older). The topics for this first set, *The Saving Name of God the Son*, *God the Father’s Loving Plan*, and *God the Holy Spirit in Signs and Wonders*, have been chosen because of the understanding that “The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them.” (CCC 234) Whereas these books do not explicitly teach the doctrine of the Most Holy Trinity, they seek to introduce each of the Divine Persons—in word and image and in implicit relation, each to the other—firmly situated in the context of the doctrinal teaching of the Catholic Church. A fourth book projected for this series will feature Mary the Mother of God.

The first board book, *The Saving Name of God the Son*, focuses on the invocations and titles of our Lord Jesus Christ, as he was foreshadowed in the Old Testament and revealed in the New. While the words are almost entirely biblical, the underlying framework is that of Salvation History as understood and taught by the Catholic Church and beautifully reiterated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.