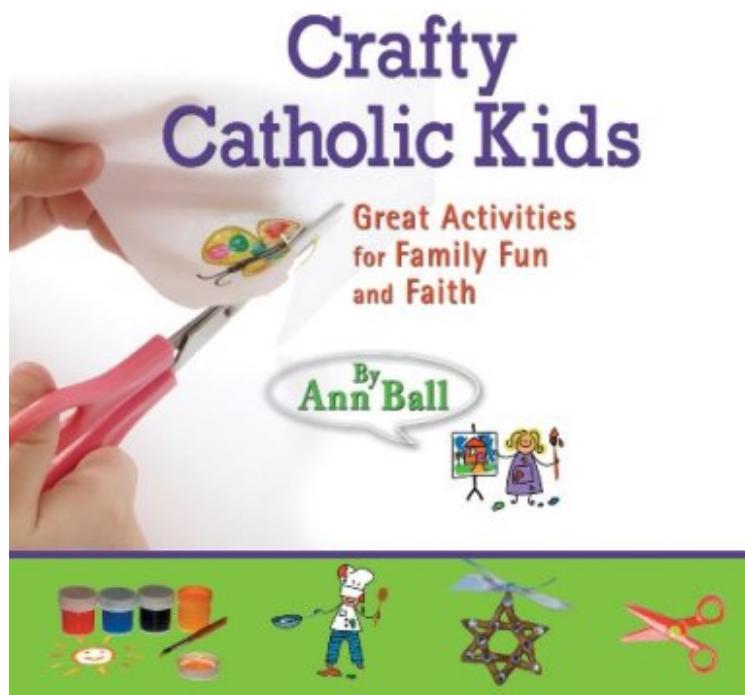


## Crafty Catholic Kids: Great Activities for Family Fun

Ann Ball

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**Ann Ball : Crafty Catholic Kids: Great Activities for Family Fun** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crafty Catholic Kids: Great Activities for Family Fun:

17 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Don't BotherBy Linda W.If you're reading this review, I wonder what book you looked up. The book I have in front of me is titled "Crafty Catholic Kids." The book is listed on as "Crafts for Catholic Children." If you look at the picture on the cover, it is the same book. I can only imagine that someone is trying to convince you they are two different books, and that one of them is worth buying. I'm sorry, it is not.I have "Catholic Traditions in Crafts," a 1997 book by Ann Ball, and it is wonderful. The crafts have an almost reverent feel about them-particularly the small baby Jesus doll to keep little one's hands busy in church.This new book is 4 times the price of the old one, and not 1/10th the value.To begin with, I can't tell where one craft ends and the next begins. There are no separate pages or chapter headings. The peculiarly generic crafts include soap balls, a decorated fish tank and paper flowers. I suppose you could make the argument that a swimming pool should remind you of Jesus

walking on water, but most people would consider that a bit of a stretch to bring religion into your life. The somewhat religious crafts require the purchase of statues or medals or crosses that are then incorporated into some perfectly ordinary craft like a picture frame. Even if this book wasn't being marketed as a book for Catholic children, the crafts are tacky and simply reworked from any number of other craft books—a B-B-Q apron for Dad, a clay coaster, and a cedar shavings pet pillow. There aren't even instructions for making the pillow, it was bought at a \$1 store and stuffed. This book is an embarrassment. I have to decide if it is worth my trouble to return it. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Finally! By Jennifer G. Miller

*Crafty Catholic Kids* is the title of my book. I bought this a few days ago mainly because Ann Ball had suddenly died the past few weeks (see [annball.com](http://annball.com)), and I knew it was her last book. I have all her Catholic Traditions series. This is an oversized paperback (8 1/2 x 11) with glossy pages and color pictures. The color photographs is such an improvement from the other b/w images from all her previous books, so that's why I say "Finally!" because the book is inviting and colorful. And it's written for children. It's written to inspire a child to open it and want to do a craft, and the crafts range from very simple to more skilled. Unlike the previous reviewer, I don't have trouble finding divisions in this book. Each chapter is marked with a colored title and a star, and each craft is divided by a dotted line. There are themes to each craft: Let the Little Children Joy and Praise Christian Symbols Speak to Us Our Blessed Mother The Saints Our Friends Loving and Giving A World of Diversity Respect for Creation Our Beloved Dead Just for Fun Fast Fun with Food Yes, some are very, very simple. But there are different needs for a child and a family. First of all, and Mrs. Ball points this out, for a young child, it's the process, not the product. I need to look at these crafts with a child's eyes. My 4 1/2 yo son was enthralled with the pictures and excited to try and make some of the items, even those that look "kitschy" to adult eyes. And sometimes families need simple and short crafts, and even some that are completely child-led, because the parents have to be occupied elsewhere. There are also times when a child wants to create a homemade gift that this book gives some great ideas. The title "Catholic" doesn't mean every craft has to be religious. Catholic encompasses the whole being, and we have other celebrations in our life that encompass our Catholic life that aren't necessarily religious, but celebrated by Catholic kids, such as Fathers' Day. All in all, I think it's a wonderful book, inspiring, appealing, and simple for children to follow. And I think it's so wonderful for it to be her last title before her return to her Heavenly Father. "Let the little children come to me." 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Catholic Lite, Craft Lite By Janet Baker

Shallow interpretation of the faith and crafts alike! That's hard to do. Rather than prayer, witch-y little magical kisses accompany some artifacts. It's also a little disturbing that one project has the kids playing with matches. There is so little that is Catholic here, save your money and look at the other selections linked to this book on the product page and in the first review.

Help your crafty kids or grandkids discover a fun, engaging side of the Faith with these simple, creative activities and projects--no technical expertise required! Whether the setting is a classroom or your home, the index makes it easy to pick the right project. All craft books show you how. Some craft books tell you why. This craft book helps you show them "The Way."

About the Author Well known for her works on Catholic traditions, crafts, and the saints, Ann Ball remains one of Our Sunday Visitor's most treasured writers. Her recent books include *Catholic Traditions in the Home and Classroom*, *Encyclopedia of Catholic Devotions and Practices*, and *Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Encyclopedia for Children*.