

## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

News about the organizations, ministries and people of our local church

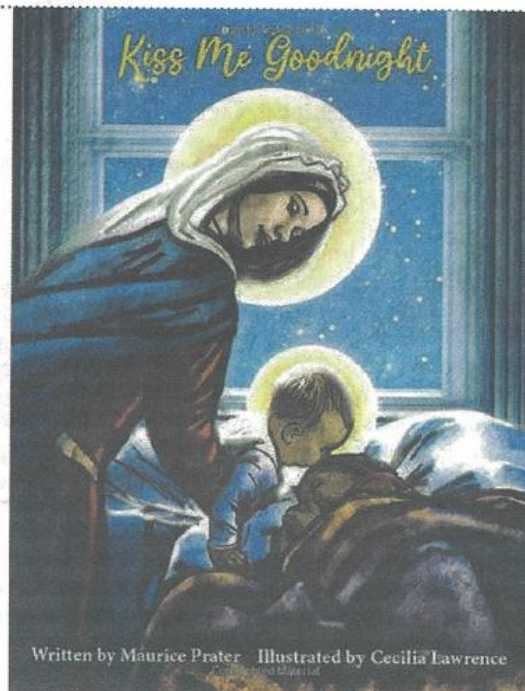
## BOOK REVIEW

*Kiss Me Goodnight*

Reviewed by **Julie Catalano**, for Today's Catholic

The first thing you notice when opening the delightful children's picture book *Kiss Me Goodnight* is illustrator Cecilia Lawrence's tender, evocative scenes of a young Christian family. Her richly hued vignettes perfectly complement author Maurice Prater's heartwarming tale of Mommy, Daddy, and their young boy through a day-in-the-life of this loving family for readers up to age seven.

The family's story quietly unfolds in relatable, comforting routines such as having breakfast, enjoying sweet encounters with grandparents Poms and Nana, sharing toys with playmates, bedtime prayers, and the occasional gentle yet loving admonition from parent to child, including



not to jump on the bed or distress the family cat.

Although the title implies one goodnight kiss before bedtime, it turns out there are many more. Prater masterfully weaves the kiss

ing a picture of a crucified Jesus in a book during afternoon story time. Mommy points out the bad "ow-wees," followed by a gentle ask of her child to "kiss them to make Him feel better?"

theme throughout, beginning with a good morning kiss from Mommy to her little boy, and continuing over a day that just might call for any manner of kisses – a thank-you kiss from Nana for the child's gift of a handmade drawing, greeting visiting cousins with a kiss, Mommy's kiss before naptime, and an inspired description of Holy Water as "a kiss from the Holy Spirit."

One especially poignant scene is the boy ponder-

At the book's end, a list of scriptural references from the Holy Bible Douay-Rheims Version provides sourcing on subjects such as mothers (Proverbs 31:10-31), grandparents (Proverbs 17:6), children (Mark 10:13-16), sharing (2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Timothy 5:8), and much more. The book is dedicated to Mary, Mother of God.

These days, with nearly constant noise from both real-life and virtual worlds, *Kiss Me Goodnight* is a welcome oasis of warmth, calm, and relief, and a perfect way for parents, caregivers, and their young charges to wrap up and wind down the day. Highly recommended for anyone who needs a reminder of the simple yet profound moments of family love and connection – whether as a reader or the read-to – and a must have for any Christian bedtime story collection.

*Kiss Me Goodnight*, Maurice Prater, author, Cecilia Lawrence, illustrator. Divine Providence Press, an imprint of Wiseblood Books. Paperback, 36 pages, full color, 2023.

## IN RETROSPECT

Written by **Carol Baass Sowa**, for Today's Catholic

From Today's Catholic archives in August:

## 2015 — TEN YEARS AGO

**VATICAN CITY** • It was announced by a Vatican source that Archbishop Blase Cupich of Chicago, originally selected as an alternate synod dele-

mission church of Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción late in the afternoon of August 15. Preceding the 7 p.m. Mass on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was the awe-inspiring double illumination for which the mission is noted.

## 2000 — TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

**MOSCOW** • The Russian Orthodox Church was expected to canonize Russia's last czar, Nicholas

purchase. Each consisted of one brick encased in clear acrylic case, etched with the restoration project logo, shrine dedication date and title of the church.

## 1975 — FIFTY YEARS AGO

**MUNICH, GERMANY** • Town councilors of Oberammergau had decided to replace the script of the world-famous but controversial passion play, under fire for anti-Semitic overtones even