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# THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

## A Season of Saints!

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Brendan Kelly was born in 1997 into a loving Catholic family who lived in the state of Virginia. Brendan had Down Syndrome and developed a form of cancer called leukemia at a young age. At one point during his cancer treatments, Brendan experienced pain in nearly every part of his body. It was in that situation that Brendan turned to his aunt and said, "Aunt Kelly, I am so happy. All you need to be happy is to open your heart to Jesus." Brendan possessed a remarkable ability to spot pain in other people. His mother, Maura, coached a girls baseball team and one particular girl had a very difficult family life. She was mean and kept to herself. Yet Brendan persisted in taking the time to sit with her. He would put his head on her shoulder and try to make her laugh. He would talk with her about Jesus. This went on for weeks and the girl was eventually transformed into a new person. Such things happened all the time in Brendan's life. Brendan's father, Frank, tells about the time when Brendan was in the Emergency Care Center at Boston Children's Hospital. Brendan noticed that there was a baby girl in the next room. The rooms were divided by windows with blinds that could be opened or closed. Brendan observed that the baby rarely had any visitors. It was because her parents lived two hours away in New Hampshire. They were not wealthy and had to work during the daytime. They could only visit their baby girl later in the evenings. Brendan asked a nurse if he could move into the room with the baby girl and was told that would not be possible. He then requested that the blinds separating the two rooms be always open. This request was granted. Brendan spent his days with his hand raised up through the window, holding the baby's hand. When the baby's parents came, Brendan would then go to sleep.

Mrs. Prather - CatholicKids101.com  
*"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"*



## Brendan Kelly

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Brendan would not pass by a Catholic Church without blowing a kiss and shouting, "Hi, Jesus!" He loved Jesus in the Holy Eucharist so much that even after chemo, when he had to be isolated because his immune system was so weak, Brendan would have his family sit outside the Church with him in their big black Suburban during Mass time. Then Father would walk outside to the car, carrying the Blessed Sacrament and Brendan would roll down the window and receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Later, when Father asked Brendan if he wanted to be an altar server, Brendan immediately said, "Yes." When told he would have to wear a cassock and surplice, he got a far away look in his eyes and whispered, "I love those." Brendan died shortly before his 16th birthday. He was buried in his cassock and surplice.