



What Does "Honor Thy Father & Mother" Demand of Me as a Parent?

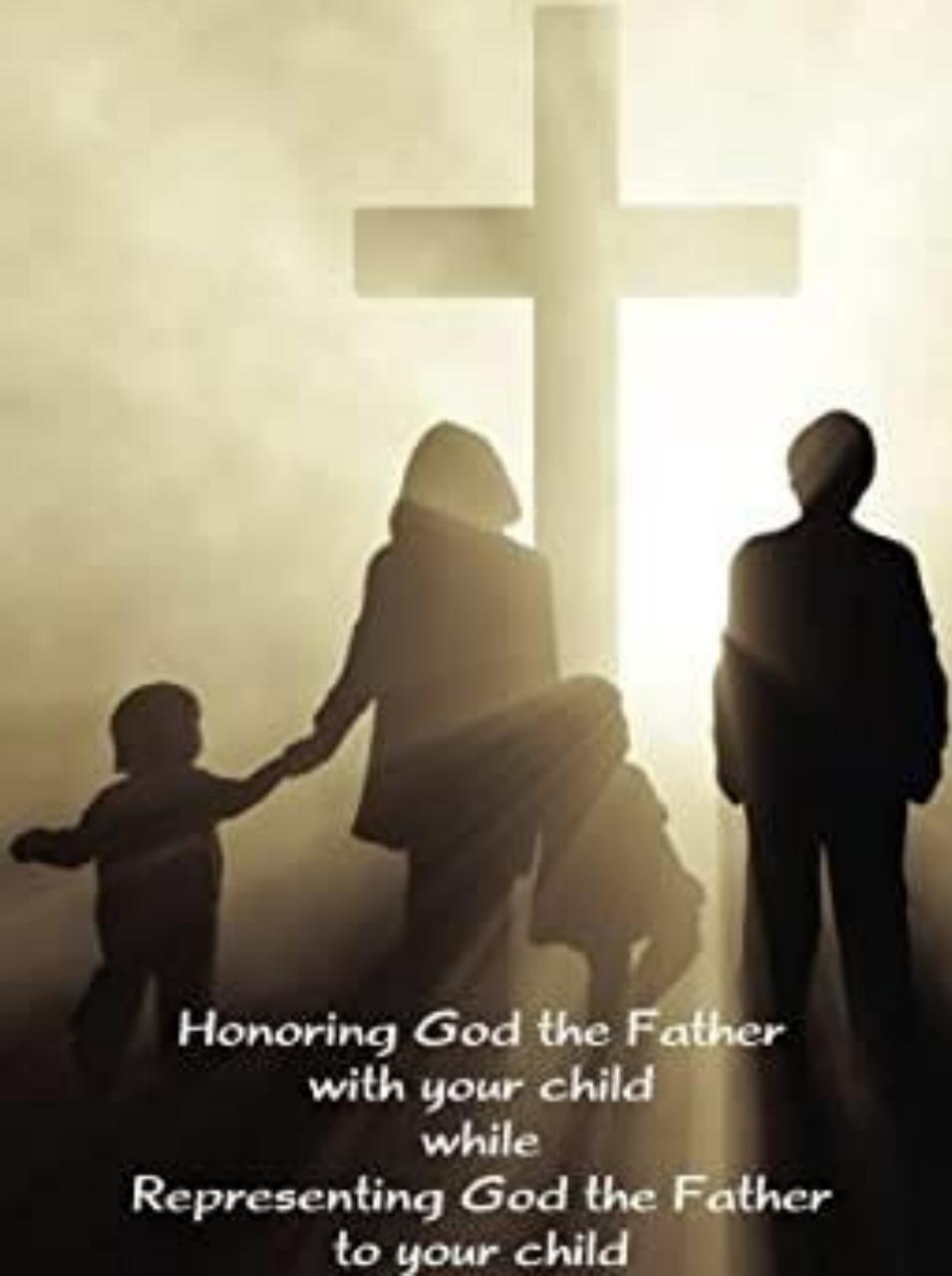
Family Catechesis
(Parent Portion)
February 5 & 12, 2023



A Parent's Prayer for their Children

O God the Father of mankind,
who have given unto me these my children,
and committed them to my charge to bring them up for You,
and to prepare them for eternal life:
help me with Your heavenly grace,
that I may be able to fulfill this most sacred duty and stewardship.
Teach me both what to give and what to withhold;
when to reprove and when to forbear;
make me to be gentle, yet firm;
considerate and watchful;
and deliver me equally from the weakness of indulgence,
and the excess of severity;
and grant that, both by word and example,
I may be careful to lead them in the ways of wisdom and true piety,
so that at last I may, with them,
be admitted to the unspeakable joys of our true home in heaven,
in the company of the blessed Angels and Saints. Amen.

PARENTING WITH PURPOSE



Small Group Discussion

- What legal responsibilities do you have towards your children according to U.S. law?
- What other obligations do you think are demanded of you as a parent as regards the 4th Commandment?
- What is your prime motivation for parenting your children the way that you do?

Some Scriptural Insight to Authority

- “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.” **(Romans 13:1-2)**
- “Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you.” **(Hebrews 13:17)**
- “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right.” **(1 Peter 2:13-14)**
- “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work.” **(Titus 3:1)**
- “Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.” **(Luke 12:48b)**





Ephesians 6:1-4

Feast of the Holy Family

- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

CATECHISM *of the* CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND EDITION

*revised in accordance with the official Latin text
promulgated by Pope John Paul II
contains glossary and analytical index*



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Wisdom from the Catechism

- **2199** “This commandment includes and presupposes the duties of parents, instructors, teachers, leaders, magistrates, those who govern, all who exercise authority over others or over a community of persons.”



Role of Parents in Education

- **2221** The fecundity of conjugal love cannot be reduced solely to the procreation of children, but must extend to their moral education and their spiritual formation. "*The role of parents in education* is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.



Respecting Children as Human Persons

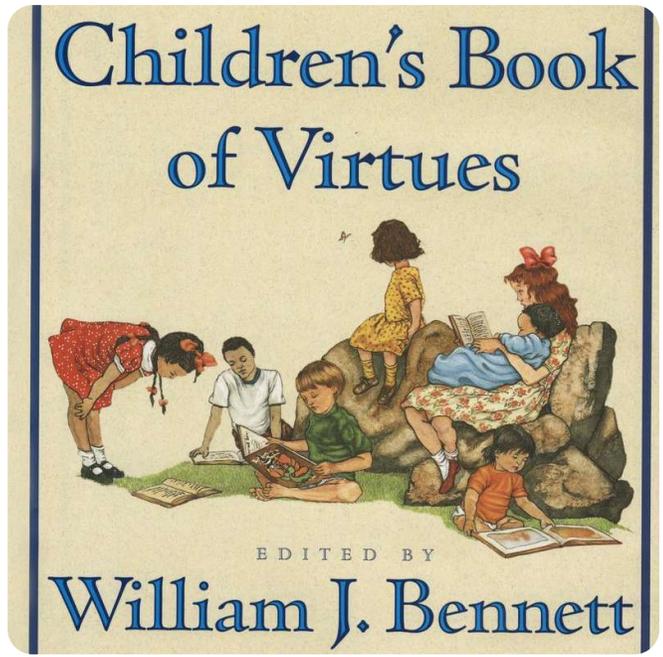
- **2222** Parents must regard their children as *children of God* and respect them as *human persons*. Showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God's law.



Creating a “Home” & Education in Virtue



- **2223** Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule.
- The home is well suited for *education in the virtues*. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the "material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones."



Importance of Example

- **2223** Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them: He who loves his son will not spare the rod. . . . He who disciplines his son will profit by him. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.





Initiating into Solidarity & Community

- **2224** The home is the natural environment for initiating a human being into solidarity and communal responsibilities. Parents should teach children to avoid the compromising and degrading influences which threaten human societies.

Evangelizing Children



- **2225** Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of *evangelizing their children*. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the "first heralds" for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one's life.



Education in the Faith

- **2226** *Education in the faith* by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.



Mutual Affection & Growth in Holiness

- **2227** Children in turn contribute to the *growth in holiness* of their parents. Each and everyone should be generous and tireless in forgiving one another for offenses, quarrels, injustices, and neglect. Mutual affection suggests this. The charity of Christ demands it.

Providing for Physical & Spiritual Needs

- **2228** Parents' respect and affection are expressed by the care and attention they devote to bringing up their young children and *providing for their physical and spiritual needs*. As the children grow up, the same respect and devotion lead parents to educate them in the right use of their reason and freedom.





Importance of School Choice

- **2229** As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to *choose a school for them* which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental. As far as possible parents have the duty of choosing schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators. Public authorities have the duty of guaranteeing this parental right and of ensuring the concrete conditions for its exercise.

Chef Doctor
Veterinarian
Florist
Painter Photographer
Journalist



Manager
Economist
Teacher
Lawyer

Assist in
Discerning their
Vocation
(without Pressure)

- **2230** When they become adults, children have the right and duty to *choose their profession and state of life*. They should assume their new responsibilities within a trusting relationship with their parents, willingly asking and receiving their advice and counsel. Parents should be careful not to exert pressure on their children either in the choice of a profession or in that of a spouse. This necessary restraint does not prevent them - quite the contrary from giving their children judicious advice, particularly when they are planning to start a family.

Small Group Discussion #2

- How do you think your parents' parenting style and your own living of the 4th commandment as a child have impacted the way that you parent today?
- What would you hope that your children know and experience about God through their interaction with you?
- What are some ways that you help your children see God's wills in what you ask of them (and not just a servile task they have to reluctantly obey)?



Using Authority as Service

- **2235** Those who exercise authority should do so as a service. "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant." The exercise of authority is measured morally in terms of its divine origin, its reasonable nature and its specific object. No one can command or establish what is contrary to the dignity of persons and the natural law.
- **2236** The exercise of authority is meant to give outward expression to a just hierarchy of values in order to facilitate the exercise of freedom and responsibility by all. Those in authority should practice distributive justice wisely, taking account of the needs and contribution of each, with a view to harmony and peace. They should take care that the regulations and measures they adopt are not a source of temptation by setting personal interest against that of the community.



Example of Religious Life

- Superiors, as those who are to give an account of the souls entrusted to them (Heb. 13:17), should fulfill their office in a way responsive to God's will. They should exercise their authority out of a spirit of service to the brethren, expressing in this way the love with which God loves their subjects. They should govern these as sons of God, respecting their human dignity. In this way they make it easier for them to subordinate their wills. They should be particularly careful to respect their subjects' liberty in the matters of sacramental confession and the direction of conscience. Subjects should be brought to the point where they will cooperate with an active and responsible obedience in undertaking new tasks and in carrying those already undertaken. And so superiors should gladly listen to their subjects and foster harmony among them for the good of the community and the Church, provided that thereby their own authority to decide and command what has to be done is not harmed. ***Perfectae Caritatis #14***



Nemo dat quod non habet

You can't give what you don't have

- Ability to discern God's will for myself if I'm ever supposed to help my child.
- I must obey God, myself, if I am to demand obedience from others.
- If representing God to my child, I must seek to better know Who God is (through prayer) and then model God's Divine pedagogy in how I interact with my child.
- Before demanding something in obedience, we must first reflect on the value and goodness of the thing we are demanding.
- Just as God does everything that is ultimately for our best, we must have our child's good in mind (not selfishly our own).
- Sincere apology when we fall short (which we will, because we aren't God).

Sharing Insights from Today's Discussion

Require obedience,
not with a storm of words,
but in a kind, loving manner.



Be so full of compassion
that your children
will be drawn to you.

