

## HOMILIES FROM ARCHBISHOP JACKELS ABOUT THE SYNOD

20 FEBRUARY 2022 | SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

---

Until we Jackels' kids got a driver's license, dad made sure we went to Confession on Saturday, Mass on Sunday, CCD on Wednesday, or we'd get his boot in our bohinkus.

He did what he knew; probably how he was Catho-licked. But that method doesn't work to attract or retain Church members, and so we Jackels' kids fell away, though some returned.

What does work? Who knows, but I think that before children can become *intentional* Catholics, they have to step out of the Church, and eventually, on their own, step back in.

But still, children and adult seekers have to be taught something, right? We can't love what we don't know, and so a vital parish will have programs to learn and teach the Gospel.

About those programs: If limited resources meant we had to choose between teaching adults or teaching children, our Church says to give teaching adults first dibs.

Seems backwards, but parents are the best teachers to make their children Catholics; parishes only help out. Also, adults will likely be the ones to make adult seekers Catholics.

We don't need to be theologians to make Catholics out of our children, or adult seekers. Introduce them to Jesus. Tell them what he did. Explain the way of life he taught us.

If we need help, go to our archdiocesan website, scroll down to the icon called A Follower of Jesus in His Holy Catholic Church, and click on it to find a 'splanation about those essentials.

Actually, regarding our way of life, this Sunday's Gospel passage is a good summary; read it, memorize it, put it into practice, talk about it, especially the last two verses:

*Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you with the measure you use.*

When each Catholic is known for that – forgiving and giving – then our parishes, that gather together these kind and joyful Catholics, will be known for the same. And as a result of that, we'll attract and retain Church members, maybe even the likes of the Jackels' kids, and we won't have to close parishes, but open new ones instead!