

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL LITERACY FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS AND THE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY OF PARENTS

Office of Child and Youth Protection



The spiritual authority of parents is a responsibility given by God. As Catholics, we agree to train our children in the Faith. We also agree to model our faith in our homes.

Ask: What influences and examples am I allowing into our home? Do these glorify God and do they set a faith-filled example?



Pray: Pray over your children and with your children every day. A Mother or Father's prayer over children carries great authority in the spiritual realm.

The Primordial Parental Responsibility (2221-2222)

The procreation of children brings about the duty of their moral and spiritual formation. Therefore, the parents' right and duty to educate children is primordial and inalienable. Parents must see their children as children of God and educate them in God's law.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Spiritually-literate children have been taught and understand the *first commandment with a promise*, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you." Exodus 20:12



REWARD!

Life In Christ (2200)

The Catechism references specific rewards for honoring parents:

- Spiritual fruits
- Peace
- Prosperity

Ask: How does my parenting style affect my child's ability to reap these rewards? Do I require respect and obedience of my children? Do they see me more as a friend or as an authority figure ordained by God?

WHAT IS TRUE-WHO AM I?



Children should be expressly taught about their true identity.

Our identity does not come from the world or our own opinion, or from the opinion of others. Every person's identity is ordained by God. Teach children who they are in God's eyes before the world teaches them a counterfeit truth about their worth and relevance. They need to know:



I AM

-Created in the image of God

-Created for eternity

-Able to know and understand God's will for my life

-A son or daughter of God because I believe in Christ

-Able to learn to identify people who have my best interest at heart and those who do not

-Able to seek guidance from trusted adults in my life when I'm afraid or confused

-Able to test and challenge thoughts or ideas that do not come from God

-Convinced that God loves me

-Destined for greatness (God has plans for me!)