

**Marriage and Family
Catechetical Handouts**

By

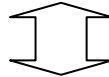
**Marlon De La Torre MA, MEd.
Director of Marriage and Family Life**

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THE TASK OF EDUCATION IS ROOTED IN THE PRIMARY VOCATION OF THE FAMILY



Part of the parents' responsibility is to serve as an instrument of grace to their child by exposing them to the beauty and richness of the Sacraments in the Church.



Our role as parents also rests on the task to help our children a fully effective human life in light of Jesus Christ our Savior and King.

“... since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children.”

- (Declaration on Christian Education, 3)

WHAT IS OUR RIGHT AS PARENTS TO EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN?

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PARENTS:

1. To give education to Children (**Primary**)
 - Connected with the transmission of human life
 - Original and primary with respect to educational roles of others.
 - The role of parent is irreplaceable and inalienable
2. The most basic element is (**parental love**)
 - Parental love finds fulfillment in the task of education
 - It completes and perfects its service to life.
 - It is the animating principle and norm for inspiring all concrete educational activity.

Education is then before all else a reciprocal “offering” on the part of both parents: together they communicate their own mature humanity to the newborn child, who give them in turn the newness and freshness of the humanity which it has brought into the world.

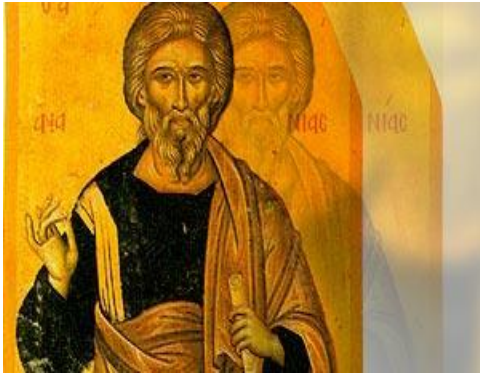
(Families, 16)

Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children, and they possess a fundamental competence in this area: they are educators because they are parents.

(Families, 16)



THE CONTENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. (FC, 39)



The Parent must foster Christian Maturity to their children.

As Baptized persons they (children) are gradually introduced into the knowledge of the mystery of salvation;

“THE GOAL”

REVELATION AND THE RESPONSE OF FAITH!

KEY POINTS FOR PARENTS

- Grow more conscious of the gift of faith which they have received.
- Learn to adore God the Father in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23)
- Trained to conduct their personal life in true righteousness.
- Fullness in Christ (Eph 4:13)
- Build up the mystical body of Christ.
- Have hope. (1 Pt 3:15)

CONTINUING CALL TO CONVERSION



BY VIRTUE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATING, PARENTS ARE, THROUGH THE WITNESS OF THEIR LIVES, THE FIRST HERALDS OF THE GOSPEL FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

- (FC, 39)

IT IS THE PRIMARY DUTY OF THE PARENTS AND OF THOSE WHO TAKE THEIR PLACE AS IT IS THE DUTY OF THE PARISH PRIEST, TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WHO HAVE REACHED THE USE OF REASON ARE PROPERLY PREPARED AND, HAVING MADE THEIR SACRAMENTAL CONFESSION, ARE NOURISHED BY THIS DIVINE FOOD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- Code of Canon Law, 914

The Role of the Christian Family

Based on Familiaris Consortio

Some Points to know and understand

1. The Family finds in the plan of God the Creator and Redeemer not only its identity, what it is, but also its mission, what it can and should do. FC, 17
2. The family's mission is to become a community of love and be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.
3. Has the mission to guard, to reveal, to communicate love.

1980 Synods emphasis on four general tasks on the family. (FC, 17)

1. Forming a community of persons.
2. Serving life.
3. Participating in the development of society.
4. Sharing in the life and mission of the Church.

Forming a Community of Persons

1. The family is a community of persons - Husband, wife, children, relatives
2. The first task of the family is:
3. To live with fidelity the reality of communion in a constant effort to develop an authentic community of persons.

Serving Life

1. The Transmission of Life (FC, 28)
2. The fundamental task of the family is to serve life.
3. The Church's Teaching and Norm (FC, 29)
4. The Church's special mission is to guard and protect the lofty dignity of marriage and the most serious responsibility of the transmission of human life.
5. Summary of the Synod Fathers:

“This Sacred Synod, gathered together with the successor of Peter in the unity of faith, firmly holds what has been set forth in the Second Vatican Council (cf. *Guadium et Spes*, 50) and afterwards in the Encyclical *Humane Vitae*, particularly that love between husband and wife must be fully human, exclusive and open to new life (*Humane Vitae*, 11; cf. 9, 12).”
6. The Church Stands for Life (FC, 30)
7. The Church firmly believes that human life, even if weak and suffering, is always a splendid gift of God's goodness.
8. In each human life she sees the splendor of that “Yes,” that “Amen,” who is Christ Himself.

Catholic Education and the Family

1. The task of education is rooted in the primary vocation of the married couple.
2. “. . . since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children.” (Gravissimum educationis, 3)
3. Rights and Duties of Parents:
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 - It is the animating principle and norm for inspiring all concrete educational activity.
 3. Education is then before all else a reciprocal “offering” on the part of both parents: together they communicate their own mature humanity to the newborn child, who give them in turn the newness and freshness of the humanity which it has brought into the world. (Families, 16)
 4. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children, and they possess a fundamental competence in this area: they are educators because they are parents. (Families, 16)
4. Education of Human Life (FC, 37)
 - A. The Family is the first and fundamental tool of social living
 1. The family is a community of love.