

BUILDING THE FUTURE TODAY; THE DIVINE RESPONSIBILITY OF NURTURING CHILDREN - PART 02

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Conf. (Proverbs 22:6)

In the first article, we saw that, we live in a rapidly changing world shaped by remarkable advances in science and technology. These developments have transformed nearly every aspect of human life including education, communication, healthcare, and economic growth. While these innovations have brought countless benefits, they have also presented significant challenges to the moral, spiritual, and social formation of children. Today, children are exposed to a vast array of ideas, values, and lifestyles through digital media and social networks long before they are mature enough to evaluate them wisely. Consequently, the responsibility of nurturing children has become more important than ever.

We said that children are not merely gifts entrusted to parents; they are gifts from God entrusted to the ENTIRE HUMAN FAMILY. Therefore, raising children is not solely the responsibility of mothers and fathers. It is A DIVINE MISSION shared by FAMILIES, the CHURCH, SCHOOLS, and the whole SOCIETY.

Every Christian, regardless of his or her vocation, has a role to play in shaping a generation that will faithfully serve God, strengthen the Church, and contribute positively to society.



True child formation extends far beyond providing food, clothing, shelter, and education. Authentic nurturing seeks the integral development of the human person, that's intellectually, morally, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Children should be taught the values of honesty, respect, discipline, compassion, responsibility, justice, and reverence to God. These virtues become the foundation upon which they build their character and make sound decisions throughout life.

Children learn not only through instruction but also through observation. They imitate the attitudes, behaviours, and priorities of the adults around them. Parents who pray together, demonstrate mutual respect, participate actively in the life of the Church, and live according to Christian values become the first and most influential teachers of the faith.

Likewise, teachers, priests, religious, catechists, and community leaders exercise a profound influence through their words and examples.

The future of the Church depends largely on the formation of today's children. From faithful families emerge tomorrow's priests, religious sisters and brothers, missionaries, catechists, committed lay leaders, and holy Christian spouses. Vocations to the priesthood and religious life rarely develop in isolation; they are often nurtured within homes where prayer, love for the Eucharist, participation in the sacramental life, and openness to God's will are part of everyday family life.

Parents have the sacred responsibility to recognize and encourage the vocation that God may be planting in the hearts of their children. Rather than discouraging a child who expresses a desire to serve



God through priesthood or religious life, families should accompany them with prayer, encouragement, and loving support. Few gifts bring greater joy to the Church than a young person who generously responds to God's call.

Similarly, strong Christian marriages are formed through sound moral and spiritual formation from childhood. Children raised in homes characterized by love, fidelity, forgiveness, and mutual respect are more likely to become faithful husbands and wives, devoted parents, and responsible citizens. Healthy families remain the cornerstone of both the Church and society.

The formation of children cannot be entrusted exclusively to parents. Schools must provide not only academic excellence but also moral education and character formation. Teachers should inspire integrity, diligence, and respect. Catechists must faithfully transmit the teachings of the Church with wisdom and compassion. Priests and religious are called to accompany young people through pastoral care and spiritual guidance. Community leaders should foster environments where children are protected, valued, and encouraged to flourish.

Every member of society contributes, directly or indirectly, to the formation of the next generation. Whenever adults demonstrate kindness, justice, honesty, and responsibility, they help build a culture in which children can grow into mature and virtuous adults.

Guiding Children in the Digital Age

Modern technology is neither inherently good nor inherently harmful; its value depends upon how it is used.

Parents and educators should neither reject technological advancement nor surrender children to its unrestricted influence. Instead, they should guide young people toward the responsible use of technology for learning, creativity, communication, and personal growth while protecting them from content and influences that undermine human dignity and moral values.

Children must be taught critical thinking, self-discipline, and ethical responsibility so that they may engage confidently with the digital world without compromising their faith or integrity.

Nurturing children is a sacred and divine responsibility entrusted to all of us. In an age marked by extraordinary technological progress, we must never lose sight of the enduring importance of faith, moral values, and authentic human formation. The future of the Church and society depends upon the children we raise today.

By nurturing children with love, prayer, discipline, and faithful witnesses, we prepare future priests, religious, holy Christian spouses, responsible parents, ethical leaders, and compassionate citizens. Every lesson in virtue, every act of encouragement, every prayer offered on behalf of a child, and every example of Christian living becomes an investment in the future of both the Church and the nation.

May we always remember that we do not raise children for ourselves alone. We nurture them for God, for His Church, and for the service of humanity. Through our faithful commitment, today's children will become tomorrow's saints, shepherds, leaders, and witnesses of Christ.

"The child we nurture today becomes the hope of the Church and the promise of tomorrow's world."

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