

Engaging Parents

The Way is an initiative centered around supporting parents.

“The Way: Youth to Young Adult Initiative provides guidance and resources to assist parents and guardians in guiding their children from baptism through adult faith and commitment to their vocation.”

It is not a new curriculum for parish schools of religion or Catholic schools. It is an initiative to help them engage parents and it also provides a large number of supportive programs and materials from the diocese.

Quotes:

“Increasing care must be taken that the various forms of catechesis and its various fields-beginning with the fundamental field, family catechesis, that is the catechesis by parents of their children- should give evidence of the universal sharing by the whole of the People of God in the prophetic office of Christ himself.” (Pope St. John Paul II, *Redemptor Hominis*, 19)

“The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason, the family home is rightly called ‘the domestic church,’ a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.” (Catechism 1666)

“The home is the first school of Christian life and ‘a school for human enrichment.’ Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous – even repeated – forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and offering of one’s life.” (Catechism 1657)

“Parents are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children. They catechize primarily by the witness of their Christian lives and by their love for the faith.” (National Directory for Catechesis, 234)

“The catechesis given by parents with the family ‘precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis.’ When children are baptized, parents accept the responsibility to bring up their children in the practice of the faith and to see to it that the divine life that God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts. At the same time the Church promises to help parents foster their children’s faith and assists them specifically in their role as catechists of their children...” (National Directory for Catechesis, 234-235)

“In the dynamic of missionary conversion catechesis with families is characterized by a style of humble understanding and by a proclamation... (National Directory for Catechesis, 230)

The role and responsibilities of parents – rights and duties

List of these rights and duties

“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.’ The right and duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.” (Catechism 2221)

1. "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children." (Catechism 2223)
 - a. "creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule."
 - b. "education in the virtues... an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery – the preconditions of all true freedom."
 - c. "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."
2. "Parents should teach their children to avoid the compromising and degrading influences which threaten human societies." (Catechism 2224)
3. From the grace of marriage, "parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children." (Catechism 2225)
4. "Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years... Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God." (Catechism 2226)
5. Parents have the duty to provide for their children's physical and spiritual needs and to "educate them in the right use of their reason and freedom." (Catechism 2228)
6. "Parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions." (Catechism 2229)

Rights and duties of Children

1. Children "contribute to the growth in holiness of their parents." (Catechism 2227)
2. "Children have the right and duty to choose their profession and state of life." [i.e. their job and vocation] (Catechism 2230)
3. "Respect for parents (filial piety) derives from gratitude toward" them. "Filial respect is shown by true docility and obedience... As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all they ask of him... As they grow up, children should continue to respect their parents... obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so respect, which is always owed to them." (Catechism 2215-2217)
4. Filial respect... also concerns relationships between brothers and sisters. (Catechism 2219)
5. "Every baptized person... has the right to receive from the Church instruction and education enabling him or her to enter on a truly Christian life." (Catechesi Tradendae, 14)
6. "The person who becomes a disciple of Christ has the right to receive "the word of faith"(Romans 10:8) not in mutilated, falsified or diminished form but whole and entire, in all its rigor and vigor. Unfaithfulness on some point to the integrity of the message means a dangerous weakening of catechesis." (Catechesi Tradendae, 30)