

# **Role of Parents**

**First Teachers of the Faith**

**Brandon Kraft — October 16, 2024**

# **Welcome!**

## **Role of Parents: First Teachers of the Faith**

### **Discussion:**

**Who is/was a person in your life that brought you to  
Jesus and your faith?**

# Introduction

## Teachers Aren't Teachers



# Teachers into Witnesses

## A Story of Liturgical Texts

- Rite of Baptism (1970): God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the father of this child. He and his wife will be the **first teachers of their child** in the ways of faith. May they be also the **best of teachers**, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Order of Baptism of Children (2020): May the Lord God Almighty, the giver of life both in heaven and on earth, bless the fathers of this child, so that, together with his wife, they may, by word and example, **prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their child**, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# **Role of Parents**

**First Witnesses of the Faith**

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# Biblical Background

## Old Testament

**A**nd these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

*Revised Standard Version; Second Catholic Edition, Dt 6:6–7.*

# Biblical Background

## Old Testament

**T**rain the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it.

*New American Bible, Revised Edition, Pr 22:6.*

# Biblical Background

## Old Testament

**G**od made a decree in Jacob, established a law in Israel:  
Which he commanded our ancestors, they were to teach their children;  
That the next generation might come to know, children yet to be born.

In turn they were to recount them to their children, that they too might put their confidence in God, And not forget God's deeds, but keep his commandments.

*New American Bible, Revised Edition, Ps 78:5–7.*



# Biblical Background

## New Testament

**F**athers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord.

*New American Bible, Revised Edition, Eph 6:4.*

# Doctrinal Background

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

**P**arents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery—the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the “material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.” 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.

# Can I Get A Witness?

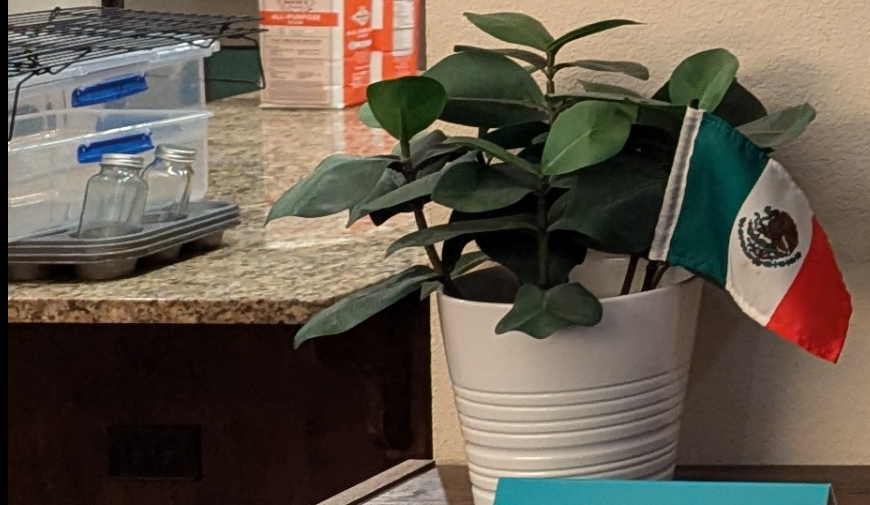
- Lived Witness
  - Parents do not need to have all the answers, but they should model a living, authentic relationship with God.
  - Be willing to say, “I don’t know, but let’s find out together.”

# Can I Get A Witness?

- Integrating Faith into Daily Life
  - Praying together as a family (e.g., before meals, bedtime)
  - Discussing the Gospel after Mass
  - Involving children in service projects or acts of kindness

# How

- Creating a Faith-Filled Environment
  - Prayer Corners: Set up a small prayer space at home.



GO ASK YOUR DAD



# How

- Creating a Faith-Filled Environment
  - Prayer Corners: Set up a small prayer space at home.
  - Sacramentals: Use holy water, crucifixes, or other religious symbols to remind children of God's presence.

# How

- Teaching the Basics
  - Prayers: Help children memorize foundational prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, etc.).
  - Bible Stories: Read Bible stories and discuss their meanings >>> Mass Readings



# How

- Modeling Faith in Action
  - Lead by example in kindness, charity, and moral decisions.
  - Share personal stories of faith and challenges.

# How

- Learning Together
  - Attend Mass as a family.
  - Engage in religious education programs as a family.
  - Make learning about saints and feast days part of family life.

# How

- Technology Tools
  - Catholic apps e.g., “Hallow”
  - [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org)

# Conclusion

## Not Perfection, But The Journey

