

The Role of Parents in the Transmission of the Faith

Christian Formation Program

Saint Patrick's Church and Households

BACKGROUND

Wrestling with the perennial question:

“Father, I raised my children Catholic,
but now they stopped practicing their faith.
I do not know what went wrong.”

good intention \neq outcome

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Before: Sunday Mass / Religious Education /
Catholic School

BACKGROUND

Sociological Studies by Christian Smith:

- His Books, available on Amazon
- A Report on American Catholic Religious Parenting, available online for free.
- YouTube: State of Catholic Parenting in the Handing On of the Faith.

CURRENT TREND

“Father, I am raising my children Catholic,
aware that today I, as a parent, have
the most impactful influence on my children.”

Now: Sunday Mass / Parental Importance of Faith /
Family Talks about Religion at Home
low Q: 1% / high Q: 82%

CHALLENGE: BECOME FAITHFUL WITNESSES

“Parents’ religiosity cannot be perceived as inauthentic because of gaps on modelling, elevation of other priorities.” – Justin Bartkus

Our children are looking up at us for coherent & consistent faithful witnesses of the Catholic faith.
(meaningful, plausible, and viable)

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

Four Markers of Effective Catholic Parents

1. Faith is an important dimension of faith journey.
2. Consciously reflect religious aspirations on their children, and seek to achieve these aspirations.
3. Multi-faceted and consistent Catholic content within and outside the home.
4. Effective and transparent communicators about their religious commitments.

PASTORAL TASKS

1. Parents must be informed and empowered to consciously and effectively fulfill their role.
2. Parental success is contingent on total quality of witness.
3. Parents must be enabled to draw from pre-existing faith and convictions, e.g. rediscovering Christ.
4. Parents can rely on the village for help.

ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

Jesus Christ: Our Goal and Guide

disciples making **disciples** at home and in church

- consistent
- complimentary
(meaningful, plausible, and viable)

LIVING OUT THE ENCOUNTER DAILY

Five Pillars of Discipleship

1. Sacraments and Prayer
2. Community Life
3. Catechesis and Evangelization
4. Service
5. Stewardship