



Holy Spirit Catholic Church



# Christian Parenting in Today's World

*A dialog on how to raise our children in a challenging, fast paced, and socially connected world...*



# A Parent's Prayer



Loving God,

You are the giver of all we possess,  
the source of all of our blessings.

We thank and praise you. Thank you for the gift of our children.

Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore.

Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

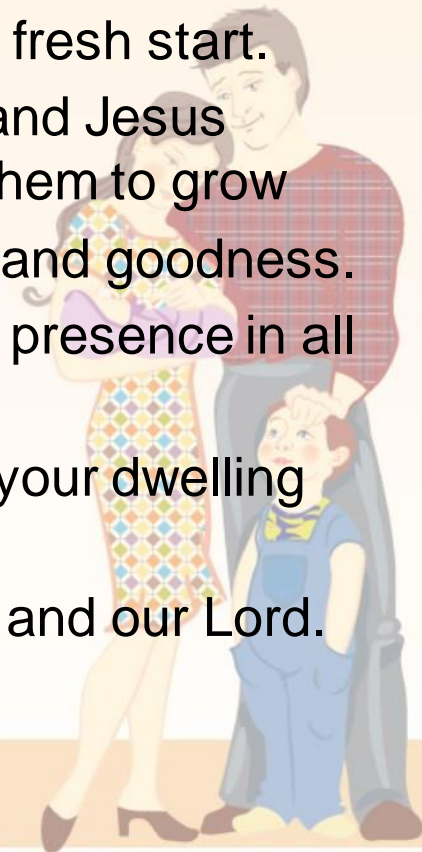
May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus  
Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow  
in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all  
things.

May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling  
place. May their hands do works of charity.

May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Amen.



# Introduction of the Parent Panel



- Discussion topics:
  - † Scriptural References
  - † Domestic Church
  - † Lead by Example
  - † Communication
  - † Co-Parenting

*“How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God’s people to live together in harmony!” – Psalm 133:1*



# Ramon & Natalia Molano



- Married 20 years
- 2 children
- Melissa (16)
- Isabella (12)



## 2 Tim 3:15-16



- ...and that from infancy you have known the sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness.



# Heb 12:11



- At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.



## Prov 22:6



- Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it.

## Ps 127:3

- Certainly sons are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward.





## Tit 2:7-8



- ...showing yourself as a model of good deeds in every respect, with integrity in your teaching, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be criticized...





# Eph 6:1-3



- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise, “that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth.”



# Gregg & Lisa Bell



- Married 24 years
- 4 children
- Nicholas (23)
- Matthew (21)
- Ryan (17)
- Lily (14)



# Domestic Church:

***The family that prays together, stays together!***



- You are the first church to your children!
- Invite your Pastor over for dinner/special celebrations
- PRAY ALWAYS...Children are our gift from GOD
- TEACH them about Eternal life with our Heavenly Father
- Live Catholic - set the example - participate/prepare for the Sacraments
- Go to Mass as a family EVERY weekend even when on vacation



# Lead by Example:

*Parents should model the love of Jesus*

- Live Catholic - set the example - participate/prepare for the Sacraments
- Get involved with your Church Community & Charities – This means You!
- Become active in the Church, i.e EMHC, Usher, Lector, etc...
- Have them join the Youth group, Altar Servers, VBS, Youth Volunteer, etc...
- Adoration its not just for Adults!
- Set boundaries with friends, movies, etc...Set a curfew "Nothing good happens after midnight"



# Communication / Social Media



- Eat Meals together (no cell phones at the table)
- LISTEN to them - but be their parent not their "friend"
- Monitor their Social Media but also trust them to make good decisions
- (Have them "friend" you/Pastor/Youth Leader/Trusted Adult)
- Limit cell phone use esp. at bedtime
- Know your child's circle of friends – are they supportive or are they destructive?



# Frederic Slayton



- 4 children
- Megan (13)
- Kimberly (12)



# Co-Parenting / Separation



- What the church teaches about co-parenting
- Why keeping communication with the other parent is so important. (Divorce doesn't take that person out of your life, only your home)
- How to be available for your children when contact is erratic.







Quick question...





By their baptismal consecration, they were enabled to join in marriage as the Lord's ministers and thus to respond to God's call.

Cf. Pius XII, Encyclical Letter *Mystici Corporis Christi* (29 June 1943): AAS 35 (1943), 202





Good reasons for divorce...



News Odd News

# Man divorces wife on honeymoon after seeing her first time without make-up

Source: **Happy FM** July 5, 2017 9:32 am

191





# A California woman divorced her husband of 22 years because he voted for Donald Trump

**ES.** Tom Powell, *Evening Standard* Feb. 8, 2017, 4:52 AM

A California woman left her husband of 22 years after finding out that he voted for Donald Trump.

Retired prison guard Gayle McCormick, 73, was shocked when her husband revealed to friends during a lunch that he planned to vote for the controversial Republican candidate.



**Gayle McCormick during an interview in inside her new apartment in Bellingham, Washington, on Thursday.** REUTERS/Tim Exton/ReutersTV





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## Italian man is granted a divorce by claiming his wife is 'possessed by the devil' after witnesses said they'd seen her LEVITATE

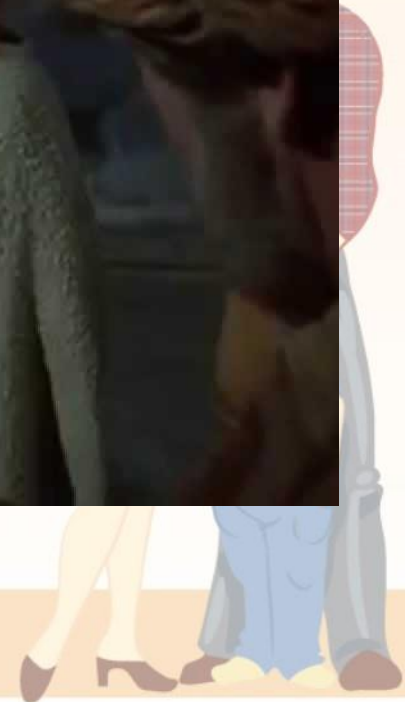
- The Milan woman had displayed 'inexplicable behaviour' since 2007
- Witnesses said the devout Catholic levitated before crashing to the ground
- Her sister, a priest and a monk confirmed that they had witnessed the episodes





Jesus insisted on the original intention of the Creator who willed that marriage be indissoluble. He abrogates the accommodations that had slipped into the old Law.

CCC 2382







“original intention?”

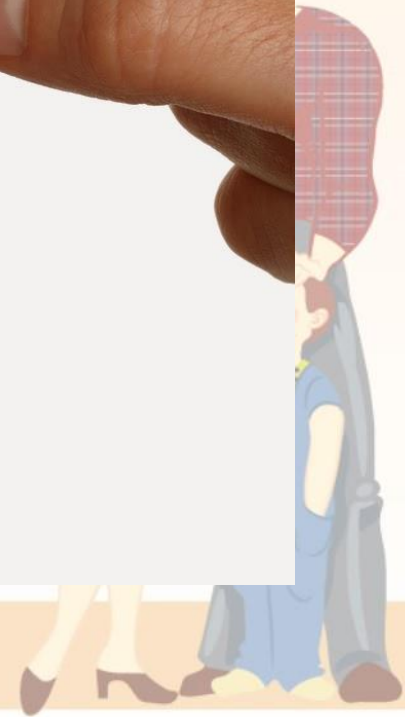




Between the baptized, "a ratified and consummated marriage cannot be dissolved by any human power or for any reason other than death."

CCC 2382







Divorce is a grave offense against the natural law. It claims to break the contract, to which the spouses freely consented, to live with each other till death. Divorce does injury to the covenant of salvation, of which sacramental marriage is the sign. Contracting a new union, even if it is recognized by civil law, adds to the gravity of the rupture: the remarried spouse is then in a situation of public and permanent adultery:

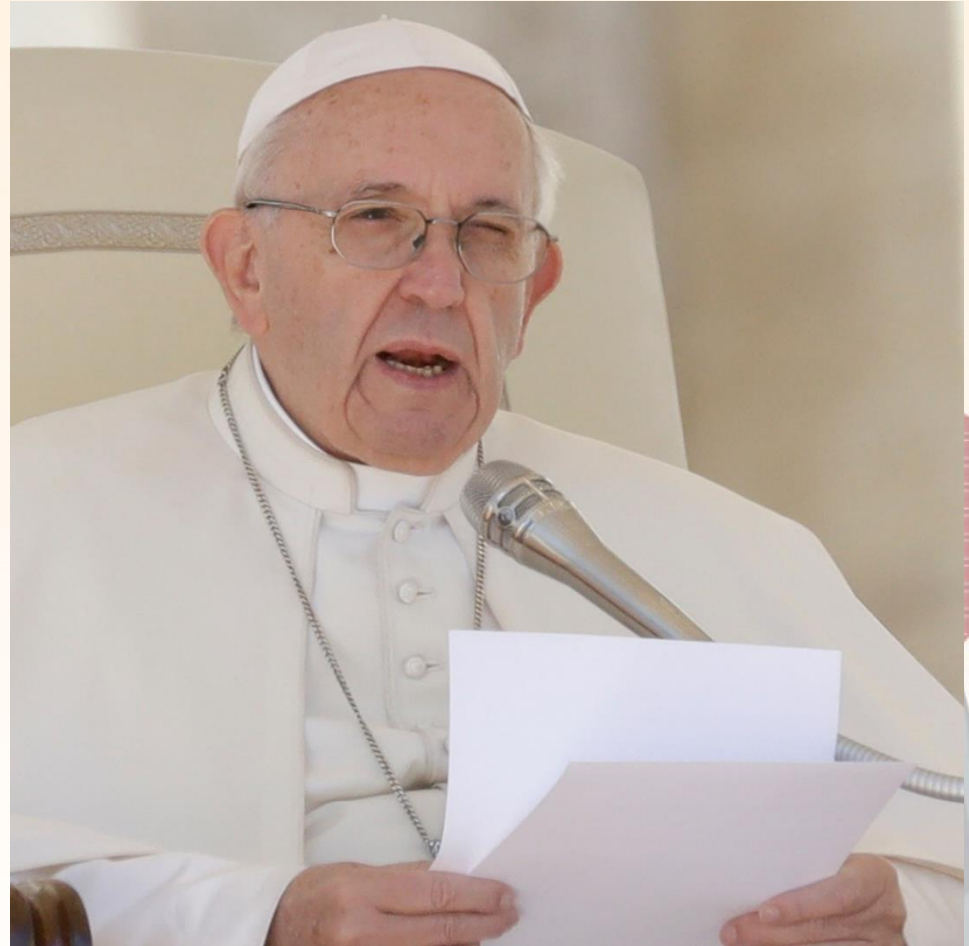
CCC 2384





“One cannot love only as long as ‘it’s convenient’; love manifests itself beyond the threshold of one’s own advantage, when everything is given without reserve. Love “cannot be an arrangement ‘until further notice.’”

Pope Francis  
Catechesis series on the Commandments  
10/24/2018





“Begetting and raising children, for its part, mirrors God’s creative work. The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic communion, and thus to grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the Spirit dwells.”

©2016 Pope Francis “Amoris-Laetitia /The Joy of Love”





# Society's Fault?









Kids are resilient...they'll  
“bounce back”







Divorce is immoral also because it introduces disorder into the family and into society. This disorder brings grave harm to the deserted spouse, to children traumatized by the separation of their parents and often torn between them, and because of its contagious effect which makes it truly a plague on society.

CCC 2385





# Children Will Suffer Anxiety





Who should I hug first?

Will the other parents be offended?

Who should I go sit with?

Should I ride home with this set of parents or would that upset the other parents?

Oh no, both sets want to take me out for ice cream afterwards—who do I go with?

Which set will be less offended if I don't choose them?

Who should I ask for money for a snack?....





# “The light of Christ enlightens every person”

(cf. Jn 1:9; Gaudium et Spes, 22).





Seeing things with the eyes of Christ inspires the Church's pastoral care for the faithful who are living together, or are only married civilly, or are divorced and remarried. Following this divine pedagogy, the Church turns with love to those who participate in her life in an imperfect manner: she seeks the grace of conversion for them; she encourages them to do good, to take loving care of each other and to serve the community in which they live and work... When a couple in an irregular union attains a noteworthy stability through a public bond – and is characterized by deep affection, responsibility towards the children and the ability to overcome trials – this can be seen as an opportunity, Ibid.

Homily for the Concluding Mass of the Eighth World Meeting  
of Families in Philadelphia (27 September 2015)







In some cases, respect for one's own dignity and the good of the children requires not giving in to excessive demands or preventing a grave injustice, violence or chronic ill-treatment. In such cases, "separation becomes inevitable. At times it even becomes morally necessary, precisely when it is a matter of removing the more vulnerable spouse or young children from serious injury due to abuse and violence, from humiliation and exploitation, and from disregard and indifference".

Even so, "separation must be considered as a last resort, after all other reasonable attempts at reconciliation have proved vain".

CCC 257 258...

Catechesis (24 June 2015): L'Osservatore Romano, 25 June 2015, p. 8. 258

John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris Consortio (22 November 1981), 83: AAS 74 (1982), 184.





So what can you do?

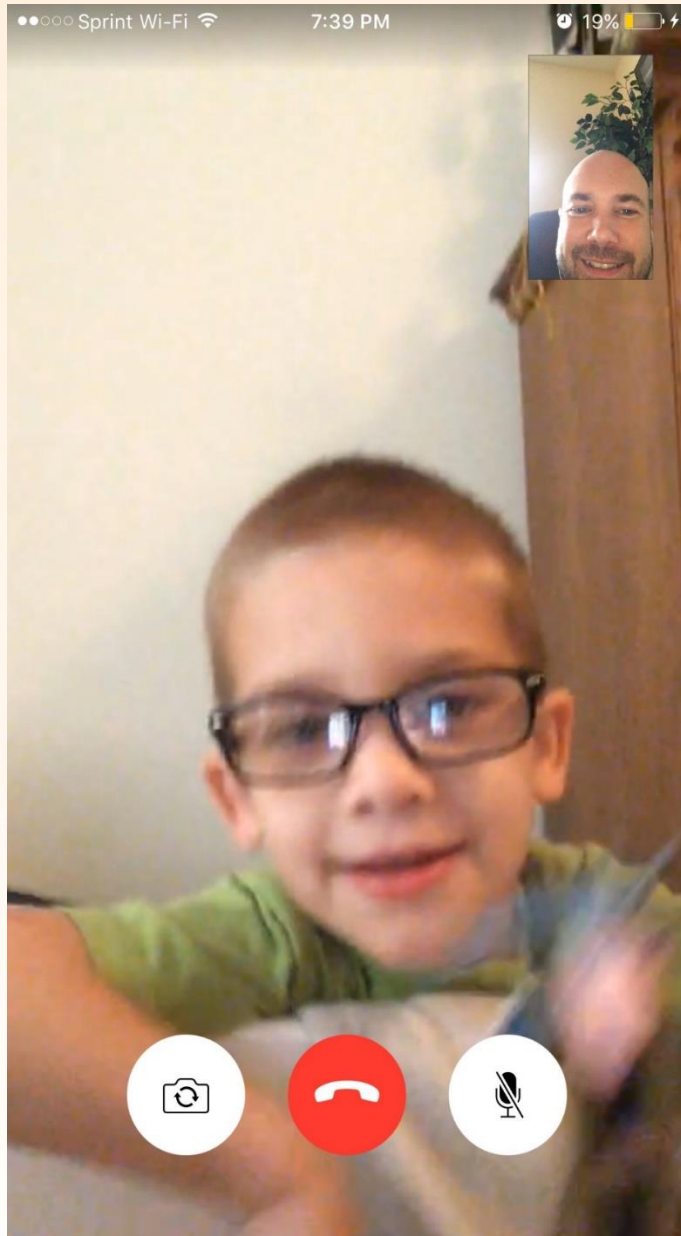




# Use Technology...















Pray together...





Family prayer is a special way of expressing and strengthening this paschal faith.376

With a few simple words, this moment of prayer can do immense good for our families. The family's communal journey of prayer culminates by sharing together in the Eucharist, especially in the context of the Sunday rest. Jesus knocks on the door of families, to share with them the Eucharistic supper

Relatio Finalis 2015, 87.  
John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation  
Vita Consecrata (25 March 1996



# Do a rosary...





Make every moment count...









# Communication...



- Stay in touch  
(any way that you can)
- Pray together
- Communicate regularly with the other parent







- Did the kids get to sleep last night? or Is anyone overtired today?
- Are there any issues at school I should know about?
- Is anyone under punishment?
- Is there anything else that I should know?



# Conclusion



- Children are a gift from God
- As parents, we are responsible and accountable to God for their growth
- We are not alone – Scriptures are our roadmap to follow
- We must set the example for our children to follow
- God always helps us despite the circumstances



# Additional Resources



## FAMILY MINISTRY RESOURCES

- Lauri Przybysz, D. Min, [www.familyministryresources.com](http://www.familyministryresources.com)



Here are some ideas to share with parents:

**Catholic Parenting 101:** Parenting tips from RCL Benziger and Dr. Tim Hogan.

<http://rclbenziger.com/tim-hogan/>

**RCL Benziger Family Life website.** Short and helpful parenting articles and videos.

[www.rclbfamilylife.com](http://www.rclbfamilylife.com) See sample downloads, videos This website supports the Family Life catechesis series for grades K-8.

**My Favorite Parenting Book:** *Raising Courageous Kids: Eight Steps to Practical Heroism*, by Charles A. Smith (Sorin Books, 2004). Teaching empathy and generosity.

**Service Project ideas for people with Kids:** <https://familyshare.com/19763/25-service-ideas-for-families-with-kids>

**100 Acts of Kindness:** <https://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/100-acts-kindness-kids/>

**Movie Reviews for Families** by Sr. Rose Pacette, <http://sisterrosemovies.com/>





# Additional Resources

**The Christian Family Movement** – Learn to observe situations that need God’s love, decide how to respond in a practical way, and plan with other families how to take action to make a difference. For a donation, families can belong to CFM and receive materials to discuss in small groups of parents, or to reflect on at home: [http://www.cfm.org/program\\_books](http://www.cfm.org/program_books)

**Catholic and Grandparenting: 5 Challenges and 5 Opportunities**, by Dr. Lauri Przybysz, ACTA Publications, 2017. [www.actapublications.com](http://www.actapublications.com) or on Amazon. Many grandparents are parenting again and are asking for support and encouragement.

Loyola Press website. “**Family, Faith, Fun**” <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/family/family-faith-and-fun>

I also recommend the Loyola Press website **3-minute retreat** for busy parents. <http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>. I use it.

Wise guidance from Liguori Publications <http://www.liguori.org/> :

- *Manage the Mess of Family Stress: Gospel solutions for Everyday Life*, Richard C. Brown
- *Help Your Child Make Friends and Be a Friend: Nurturing Lifetime Relationships*, Richard C. Brown

**Family Faith Inventory** – Invite parents to self-assess their strengths and areas for growth with this tool. Also, Family Faith Resource Booklet , developed through the Strong Catholic Families initiative for families to use to determine how they wish to grow in faith as a domestic church.

