

How can I keep my kids Catholic?

Faithful Questions – April 2020

Deacon Ken Crawford





Overview

- Both parents involved
 - Dads matter a LOT!
- Participate in the sacraments
 - Go to Mass – including Holy Days of Obligation
 - Celebrate baptism anniversaries
- Make Church a priority
 - Versus sports/extra curriculars
 - Career planning
- Celebrate the Liturgical year
- Teach the controversial stuff
 - Sexual ethics
 - Science and Faith

Intermission!





Introduction



How to ask questions

- Write a comment on YouTube and start it
 - DEACON QUESTION –
- We'll compile them for answering at set times



Caveats and Conditions

- Practical advice is by nature only applicable in particular situations
 - Take my practical suggestions as exactly that: Suggestions
 - Said another way – they are ideas to consider
 - Most definitely **NOT MANDATORY OR REQUIRED!**
- If you didn't do some of the advice
 - RELAX! God has a way of working with us wherever we are
- I don't have perfect children nor do I claim my raising of them in the faith is perfect.





Old methods don't work

- In past generations there was much more support for the faith
 - There was also less ideological opposition to it
- If it takes a village to raise a child...
 - What do we do when the village is no longer helping with the faith aspects of our children's upbringing?
- Fear of Hell is not very compelling anymore





Both parents
involved



Both parents matter

- When parents don't agree, the ability of one parent to influence a child is undermined
- Not just about "going along"
 - Both must really believe something for children to naturally believe the same
- Dad is particularly important when it comes to faith





1994 Swiss study

- Followed families for over a generation
- Dad's religious practices far more influential than mother's
 - Table shows percentage of children who attend Church regularly

	Dad regularly attends Church	Dad doesn't
Mom regularly attends Church	33%	3%
Mom doesn't	38%	2%





REALLY believe

- When I talk to parents often the real issue is their own faith
- If you want your children to believe, start with yourself



Real not perfect

- We live in a Watergate society, not a Camelot society
- Today's children will never believe in something 'perfect'
 - Plus, none of us are perfect parents
- So be real, not perfect



“I want my child to decide for themselves”

- Trust me – They will
 - They may even choose to anger their atheist Father and become Catholic
- Do you want your children to decide for themselves if they...
 - Cross the street safely
 - Do well in school
 - Act morally
- Really means we don't care





Participate in the Sacraments



Baptism Anniversaries

- Do you know the date of your baptism?
 - Or of your children?
- Celebrate them
 - Cake
 - Family gathering
 - Get out the mementos
 - Candle
 - Garment
 - Pictures



Confirmation emphasis

- Theology of Confirmation is not about a Rite of Passage
 - But we do it anyway
 - Why? Because it's a great time to transfer faith ownership
 - See it across many faiths
- Confirmation reception
 - Think mini wedding reception
- Rite of Passages ask children to mature
 - Make sure you expect that of your kids
 - Start early





Mass is critical

- Do you love going to mass?
 - What will that say to your children?
- Holy Days of Obligation
 - Is it an obligation or a special day to celebrate?
- Sit up front
 - Kids need to see
 - Don't worry about the noise
- If you must take them out, bring them back
 - Don't go home



St. Clare and noise

- We don't have a cry room on purpose
 - Kids are welcome in the Nave
 - Narthex is a bad influence on kids
 - They'll behave better in Nave
- St. Clare 'amphitheater' effect





Confession is critical

- The other frequent Sacrament
- Go 4+ times a year
 - Make use of reconciliation services
- Take your kids
- Particularly important after their first reconciliation
- Admit you are sinner
 - Be an honest hypocrite



Submit your questions

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 - DEACON QUESTION –
- We'll compile them during the intermission



Still having an intermission?

- Yes!
- Hard to stay focused for 60+ minutes
- Allows us to gather questions for Q&A
- Don't forget your snacks!



Intermission!





Intermission!

Time is Up!





Questions?



Make Church a
priority



What wins?

- Sports games/practice
- Scouts
- After school activities
- Family gatherings
- Church activities



Opportunities for Church to win

- Vacations
 - Go somewhere with a unique Church aspect
 - Go to Mass while on vacation
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Get to Church activities early
- Prayer before meals
 - ALL the time
 - Even in mixed company
- Field trips!





Financial commitment

- Let your kids know how much you give
 - We use envelopes, not online giving
- Let them see you make financial sacrifices for the Church
 - Catholic school money can feel “self serving” to children
 - Particularly where public schools are not so good
- Encourage older children to give as well





School/Career guidance

- We encourage our children to get good grades and to strive for a good career
- Do we see being a cleric or religious as a good option?
 - Is your son called to be a priest or a monk?
 - Is your daughter called to be a religious sister?
 - Or are they willing to work for less income for a lay position in the Church?





**Celebrate the
Liturgical Year**



Advent

- Remember: It's not Christmas
 - Be different than everyone else
- Get Christmas tree late
 - 3rd Sunday is pink!
- Advent wreath
- Advent calendars
- Purple books for kids



Christmas

- What is more important: Mass or presents?
 - Consider going to Mass on Christmas Day
- Remember Christmas is just as much a secular holiday as a Christian one
 - Make sure the kids can tell there's something different about the way your family celebrates Christmas





Lent

- Do family Lenten sacrifices
 - It was cookies and chips for 2020 for the Crawford
- Go do some charitable works
- Have them contribute to the charities with you
 - Baby bottle project
- Lenten field-trip!





Easter

- Easter is no longer a secular holiday
 - Makes it easier to stand out
- Easter is the larger feast in the Church's eyes
 - Does it feel that way to your children?
- Make it joyous
 - Don't let Lenten penance be synonymous with Catholicism



**Teach the
controversial stuff**



Homosexuality

- Homosexual acts are sinful
- But we don't hate gay people
- People tempted to homosexuality can be good Christians
- We are all called to live lives of holiness
 - When we fail we should strive to do better (and go to confession!)
- We should treat everyone who is tempted to sin with love and compassion



Pre-marital sex

- Sex and children go together like Peas and Carrots.
- Children deserve two parents who are committed to each other and to their children
- Thus sex needs to be saved for marriage



Faith and Science

- Catholics embrace both
 - Not fundamentalists: Bible is not a science book
 - Not believers in 'Scientism' – That science is the only form of knowledge
- Catholicism is rational
 - Based on real evidence
- Science and Theology help each other
 - Different areas of study that can inform each other



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Conclusion



Conclusion

- Most important thing is that both you and your spouse really believe
 - And your actions reflect that
- Must instill it yourselves
 - Society won't
 - Catholic schools aren't enough
 - After school Faith Formation doesn't have enough time
- Where is your faith in your daily priority list?
- Don't forget to teach them the tough stuff



Satisfaction Survey

- Did you enjoy this talk? Or not?
- Let me know:
 - <http://deaconken.org/blog>
 - <http://deaconken.org/blog/quiz/april-2020-faithful-questions-satisfaction-survey/>



Next Time

- **3rd** Tuesday – May 19th
 - Week later than usual
- 7:00 PM in the Morris Hall
 - At least we hope – will be live-streamed as alternative
 - Standard Time
- Topic
 - Is the Eucharist really the Body and Blood of Christ?
- Future Topics
 - Re-start in the Fall
 - Interest in a summer live-stream series?



Additional Information

- Webpage:
 - <http://deaconken.org>
- E-mail:
 - ken@deaconken.org
- Slides
 - <http://deaconken.org/blog/category/faithful-questions-seminar/>
 - <http://deaconken.org/blog/>
- Audio/Video on YouTube
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjDRHzlHV-O_zF1op8rtlbA



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Questions?



God Bless You!

**Thank you for watching
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