

mother who prayed with the children. But is not the father also a priest in his family? I still always thank GOD that my father used to lead the prayer at home. Our mother used to instil the faith into our hearts. Our father would chiefly teach us about faith, he educated our minds in religion. – For educational purposes we have issued our own instruction ring binders. These instructions are also highly recommended for adults. Because from them they, too, can learn how to teach their own children.

You Have Been Entrusted with Divine Good

You fathers and mothers, remember: it is not you who made your children, but GOD gave them to you through your assistance. GOD gave the children His breath, the soul. Your children have been entrusted to you and one day GOD will ask you: „Have you guarded and led the child whom I committed to your care in such a way that he can come back to Me?“ Amen!

Excerpt from the sermon of 12 May 2013



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,
the + FATHER and the + SON
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

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Motherhood First Messengers of Faith

Dearly beloved, I heartily welcome you to the feast of the Maternity of Mary. On this feast we will also commemorate all natural and spiritual mothers.

It is good for people to remember, at least on Mother's day, what they owe to their mothers. Although experts again and again point out what an important role the mother plays in the child's healthy, physical and mental development, the housewife, the mother who stays at home with her children, is judged disapprovingly. Only if the child can mature in a firm, peaceful, intimate environment, will he be able to gain an unshakable confidence in the world and thus grow into a mature, steady personality – a personality which in its turn will pass on positive things to the people and the world. So the sound development of society rests predominantly with the mothers.

A Dying People

It is incomprehensible and unforgivable how this inferiority complex was virtually instilled into the mothers, as has been noticeable in recent years. Today there is a strong tendency to bring children to the day nursery to be minded at the earliest possible age. The consequences will come back on society in future. Germany for instance has the lowest birthrate in the world, is, therefore, practically a dying people. When, on top of everything, there are more and more young people who never knew a healthy family life, and

as a result are disoriented and emotionally uprooted and will behave accordingly, then problems are inevitable. It is obvious that the family cannot be replaced by anything. By making propaganda for day nurseries, the declining birthrates cannot be stopped because what woman would want to give birth to her child for the day nursery.

The Parents – First Messengers of Faith

One of the incomparable, irreplaceable things which mothers do for their children and so for the whole society, is the transmission of faith. Parents, especially mothers, are the first and most important messengers of faith. With few exceptions, from a child we came to know our faith not at school, in religious instruction classes, but already e.g. in the evening before bedtime when mother prayed with us and told us about GOD. In our family our father did so, too.

For religion also goes: the basis, the religious foundation is laid in childhood. What is neglected during infancy can only with difficulty be compensated for later. For that reason, you parents, take this task seriously. Do not just take care of the physical well-being of your children, but also of the well-being of the soul. The soul is just as hungry and thirsty as the body. To children likewise applies: man does not live on bread alone!

Building Your Family on Rock

We must not keep our children from the most important thing, the relationship to GOD. May the young parents realise that it is very important just in our chaotic times to make room for faith in their family life. Those who pray together with their family on a daily basis, will soon notice what a blessing, what an enrichment it is for the family, how in this way the burden of everyday worries is eased and supported. Because then GOD is present in the family. As the SAVIOUR says: „I am the vine; you are the branches. Apart from Me you can do nothing.“ In union with JESUS you will be strong and bear fruit! When families break up, is it not generally because the foundation

of faith was lacking? The Christian family does not build on sand but on rock. This family will have a great future ahead! Mother Teresa said: „A family which prays together will also stick together.“

Education of the Heart

If parents are not able to teach their children about faith, then it is an obstacle for marriage and they should never have been allowed to marry. Teaching children about faith already starts at a very early age. If for example you are carrying your little baby in your arms and you walk past the cross on the wall, then blow a kiss to the SAVIOUR on the cross or caress Him. Your child, whom you are carrying in your arms, will see this. And because children love to imitate what their parents do, they will do this sooner or later on their own. Or if you are walking past the holy water stoup, make a little sign of the cross with holy water on your child's forehead. That is the beginning of religious education. The mother gives her child the heart, the body. Therefore, mother and child have a very special intimate union with each other. The child in the mother's womb feels the stirrings of the mother's heart. He feels whether his mother is looking forward to him or not. He feels when the mother is caressing him, when she is singing for joy or when she is praying. Consequently, it is so precious and important that the mother begins to educate her child's heart as soon as possible.

Priests within the Family

In the Sacrament of Marriage the married couple receive from GOD the parental blessing. It means that both father and mother can bless their children. Father and mother are priests of their little church, the family. Those who start a family without the Sacrament of Marriage do not have this blessing. They will only have a very human relationship with their children and with each other.

Sometimes one can hear boys or men speak slightlyly: „Praying is women's business!“ It is often because in the family it was only the
