

Talking with the Deceased

My dearly beloved, when things do not work out among them, family members cannot wish for anything better than to venerate and invoke the Holy Family. She is the wonderful model of a family. Certainly, it is the case with all Church festivals: the Saints, who are celebrated, have already died. We reach them by remembrance, what used to be, of them. Does one not also think of deceased family members that they are dead? Of course, they are not! It is true, not dead, but dead to grace are those who have been rejected by GOD. These are in hell. In that case it is no use any more to implore their help. But all the others, be they in Purgatory or in Heaven, live much more intensely than we do on earth. They would be delighted if we spoke to them because they are more alive than we are. Therefore, we ought not only to reach them by remembrance, but also to turn to them directly in prayer or dialogue. We would gain quite a lot by doing so because they are able to do more now than they used to in their earthly lives. Amen!

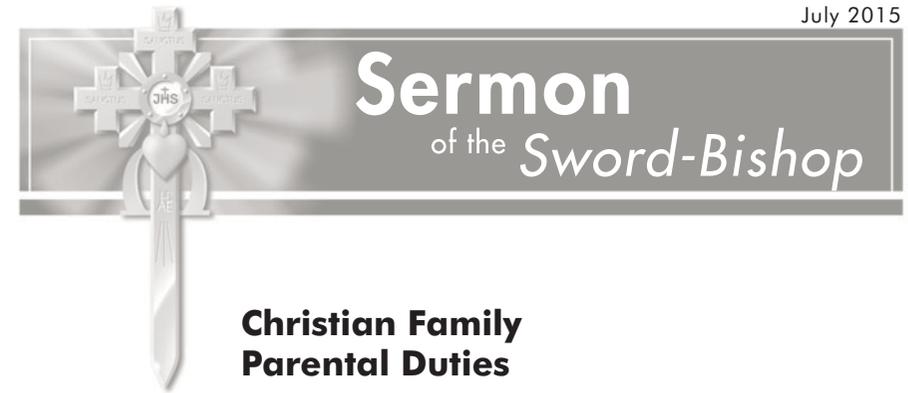
Excerpt from the sermon of 26 January 2014



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

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

Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI
sb.



Christian Family Parental Duties

My dearly beloved! At the feast of the Holy Family, something comes to my mind which has been very close to my heart for years and years. Many parents, also with the New Christians, simply think: „Well, after all, there are clergy and sisters, they will teach our children.“ It should, however, be the parents who already raise the infant in religion, not the clergy or the sister, when the child reaches a teachable age. And as soon as the child receives religious instruction, it is very important that the parents support this and deepen this instruction at home. When the child is going to school then, the parents ought to keep a close eye on him lest any false teachings should settle in their child.

Priestly Parental Duties

It seems quite odd to me when I hear: „Bringing up children is women’s business!“ Oh no, because in the Sacrament of Marriage, man and woman receive a priestly duty. They are priests in their family. Consequently they both have the duty to raise their children in religion. There are plenty of books in circulation about raising children in a modern way. Unfortunately, in it often a false personality development of the child is extolled, bringing him up to be a tyrant. Do not do that to your child! Do not bring him up to become a selfish person who loses his esteem for his parents and tells them a few home truths. The child needs a calm, firm hand, guiding him in all love and making him into a decent, lovable person.

It is still an opinion shared by many that the father gives the orders and the mother has to obey. Such a mistake! GOD created the first man, Adam, in His own image and likeness. From this man, who was fatherly and motherly at the same time, GOD took away the motherly side – Eve –, and the fatherly side – Adam – remained. As a result the man cannot say: „The other half of me is worthless, is silly!“ If a man disregards a woman, he disregards himself. If a woman disregards the husband, she disregards herself as well.

In the Holy Family we have a wonderful example: Joseph, Mary and JESUS. Of course, Mary has – the term should not be taken as bad as it sounds – placed herself under Joseph, but that was customary with the Jews in the Old Covenant. Joseph, however, recognised the greatness of Mary and wanted her to play the leading role; nonetheless Mary wanted it the way GOD had ordained in the Old Covenant. – Through Mary the failure of Eve has been made good. Since that time, man and woman have been of equal rank again, but each has their own particular nature. There are sometimes women who are almost manlier than men, not in a negative, but in a positive sense. However, it is normal for the father to act using his reason, and for the mother to act from the heart. So a mother is sooner able to put faith into the child’s heart because religion should not be put into the head but into the heart. From the heart it should go up into the head. Unfortunately, religion used to be drummed into the head. Some will remember what they have heard and cling to it. They believe that they are still Catholic and would know what religion is. Regrettably, the opposite is the case.

Examples from Everyday Life

How does religious instruction of the mother begin? An example: a mother has breastfed the child or given him the bottle. Then she carries the child on her arm until he burps. While the mother passes for example a cross – which actually belongs to a Christian home –, she can throw the SAVIOUR a kiss or caress Him with her hand. The child immediately wants to copy the mother’s behaviour or the mother can

guide his little hands to his mouth saying that he should also throw the SAVIOUR a kiss.

What then is left for the father to do? The father should settle with the mother on how they want to deal with religion in the family. The father does not give orders but they decide on it together. The father can explain the religion to his children and later also go to church with them. The father should also say grace and lead the common family prayers. Otherwise the little lad grows up and always just sees his mother praying, since the father is not present or does not join in. When later on the boy arrives at an age at which children are not very interested in religion any more, he will say: „Praying is a female matter, women’s business!“ Do you understand why I lean towards the following: the father should lead the prayer because GOD wants it so and that is what counts to me. Therefore, you fathers, if someone can no longer lead the prayer, let him come to me. Then I will give him a sheet with the LORD’s Prayer, “Hail Mary”, etc. Why not? We all have to learn sometime. Today, when children are raised without prayer, it is not unusual for a young father to say: „I do not know how it works.“ I would love to help and do not look down on such a person, but I admire a man who comes and says: „Would you like to help me? How am I to do that?“

Early Communion

An example in which also the HOLY SPIRIT or the Guardian Angel was involved: a mother returns to her pew after having received Communion. Clair, aged four, cuddles up tightly to her chest saying: „Now JESUS is with you, then I want to be really close to Him.“ As a result, the mother asks the priest whether little Clair could not go to early Communion at age four. The clergyman asks Clair: „Do you want JESUS to come to you?“ to which the infant replies: „No, JESUS wants to come to me!“ Do you grasp the difference? Even if I would love to give a child early Communion, first and foremost, however, I look at the joy of the SAVIOUR, who can go into the innocent heart. The joy within me for the SAVIOUR is even much greater than for the child.
