

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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On Thanksgiving,
Give thanks to the Lord
for His many Blessings

The following article is from a book I have *Way To Happiness* that was published 66 years ago by Venerable Fulton J. Sheen. His words about the raising of children may, by today's standards, appear rather strict and straight forward perhaps because in our time children sometimes appear to hold rank over their parents. Yet the principles of raising a child are timeless. As I look back on my own childhood and being one of seven children, I can now see that we didn't get a lot in ways of many gifts at Christmas. We would tend to each get one or maybe two gifts and that was it. Yet I was perfectly happy with what I received because that was all I knew and I was satisfied. If my birthday was forgotten (being just two days after Christmas) I would scarcely remember it myself and wouldn't go into a fit of tantrum because I had been neglected. Some children are given much and expect much from their parents. Sheen's point, I think, is that the important things that are passed on to children – the tools they will use all their lives – are what endure and build and form character.

It's interesting to see the different behaviour of children and even young adults. Walking my dogs in the morning I have often noticed that when a bus arrives and a number of children or even teenagers are waiting to get on the bus, the first to approach and board the bus are most often the boys, not the girls. Even the teenagers tend to do this. Some might suggest that this is due to the rise of feminism or some such thing but it is not the way I was raised. Going into a store, some young people will hold the door for you while others won't and if you hold the door for some, including adults, sometimes you are acknowledged and sometimes you're not. It all has to do with upbringing and that which has been instilled in us from our earliest days.

Herbert Hoover said "Children are our most valuable natural resource" and George Bernard Shaw said, "The best brought up children are those who have seen their parents as they are. Hypocrisy is not the parents' first duty". And St. Francis Xavier stated, "Give me a child for the first seven years, and you may do what you like with him afterwards".

Parents and Children

by Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

There are no juvenile delinquents; there are only delinquent parents. The Fourth Commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother," is hardly ever quoted today as the means of restoring domestic peace. If discipline in the home is neglected, it is rarely made up for later.

The duty of parents to children is to rule while avoiding exasperating severity on the one hand and excessive indulgence on the other. God gives parents a child as so much plastic material that can be molded for good or evil. What if God placed a precious diamond in the hands of parents and told them to inscribe on it a sentence which would be read on the Last Day and shown an index of their thoughts and ideals? What caution they would exercise in their selection! And yet the example parents give their children will be that by which they will be judged on the Last Day.

This tremendous responsibility never means that parents, when their children do wrong, should provoke them to wrath, for wrath leads to discouragement. Parents hold the

place of God in the house. If they act as tyrants they will develop unconsciously anti-religious sentiments in their children. Children love approbation and can be easily cast down into despair when blamed excessively for trivial faults. With great difficulty can children ever be taught the Love and Mercy of God, if His vice-regents in the home act without and are so difficult to please. When good intentions are rated low, and children are put under the ban of dishonor, they are likely to show they are no better than their parents think they are.

Children came into their own with Christianity when its Divine Founder said: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of Heaven." He consecrated childhood by becoming a child, playing on the green hills of Nazareth and watching the mother eagles stir among their young. From that day it became eternally true: "Train up the child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it."

As the twig is bent, so is the tree. It is interesting when one sees children, to speculate from the way they act as to the kind of homes from which they come. As one can judge the vitality of a tree from the fruit it produces, so one can tell the character of the parents from their children. One knows that from certain homes there will never be an errant child, while a glance at a mother or father will reveal a future full of fears for the child.

The present tendency is to shift responsibility to the school. But it must be remembered that education will make as much difference to a child as soil and air and sunshine do. A seed will grow better in one soil and climate than in another, but the kind of tree that grows depends on the kind of seed that is sowed. Then too, one must inquire if education is of the mind alone, or also of the will. Knowledge is in the mind; character is in the will. To pour knowledge into the mind of a child, without disciplining his will to goodness, is like putting a rifle into the hands of a child. Without education of the mind a child could be a stupid devil. With education of the mind, but not love of goodness, a child could grow up to be a clever devil.

The nation of tomorrow is the youth of today. They are the assurance of progress; the fresh arrows to a better future; the wings of aspiration. Even in war the strength of a nation is not in its bombs, but in the soldiers who defend it. In peace, it is not economics or politics that save, but good economists and good politicians—but to be that, they must be good children. To be that, there must in the first place be the grace of God; in the second place, in the home lessons of love and truth; in the schools knowledge and self-control.

Even in their early failures, the parents are not to be discouraged, remembering that fifteen centuries ago when the heart of a mother was broken for her wanton boy, St. Ambrose said to her: "Fear not, Monica; the child of so many tears cannot perish." That vain and wanton boy grew up to be the great and learned St. Augustine, whose "Confessions" everyone ought to read before he dies.

From Way to Happiness by Fulton J. Sheen (Garden City Books, 1949, pages 89-91).

**FIRST COMMUNION 2016
PARENT MEETINGS & REGISTRATION**

Parents of children in Grade 2 (7 years old) who wish for their child to prepare for and celebrate *First Holy Communion* at St. Leo the Great Parish are asked to choose to attend one of the two offered Information Meetings. (It is not necessary to bring the children to the meeting.)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22 AT 7:00 PM.
or
SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 AT 12:30 PM.
(following the Sunday 11 am. Mass)

Parents are asked to go to our parish website — stleothegreat.ca to find full information about the preparation process, the dates for First Reconciliation and First Communions, etc. Parents are reminded to bring with them a copy of their child's RC Baptism Certificate, the downloaded and completed Registration Form, and \$50.00 as a donation to the parish to assist in covering costs. We look forward to celebrating with you and your child Christ's gift of His Body and Blood.

PROJECT HOPE for Refugees

In response to the global refugee crisis, Cardinal Thomas Collins has launched "**Project Hope**," a special emergency appeal. This 100-day campaign aims to raise \$3 million in order to settle 100 refugee families in the Archdiocese of Toronto as soon as possible. The effort will also require 100 volunteer committees to assist with settlement services. To make a donation to support the appeal, visit: www.archtoronto.org or call (416) 934-3411. You can also donate through our parish with a cheque made payable to ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH – PROJECT HOPE – REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP. We continue to pray for all those suffering, mindful of our call to welcome the stranger in our midst. Those interested in assisting with volunteer committees should contact the Office for Refugees at (647) 780-0827.

A CHURCH IN DIALOGUE

Pope Francis has raised the significance of Ecumenical and Interfaith dialogue to a new level of importance. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration *Nostra Aetate*, on the Church's Relationship to Non-Christian Religions, 1965-2015. Please take note that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has recently released a document entitled "A Church in Dialogue: The Catholic Church and Interreligious Dialogue." You are encouraged to download the text from the CCCB website: [http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Nostra Aetate - 50th Anniversary.pdf](http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Nostra_Aetate_-_50th_Anniversary.pdf).

Mass Intentions – October 13-18

Tues. 13 - 8:30 am – Elizabeth Breen+ req. Dorothy Bravo
Wed. 14 - 7:00 pm – Deceased Members – Knights of Columbus
Thurs. 15 - 8:30 am – Owen McCanney+ req. Jack & Jeananne Ralph
Fri. 16 - 8:30 am – Ken Wesley+ req. Jack & Jeananne Ralph
Sat. 17 - 5:00 pm – Paul Ponce de Leon+ req. By his Family
Sun. 18 - 9:00 am – Vivien deSouza+ req. St. Leo's K of C
11:00 am – Tony Vonk+ req. Madelaine Vonk

**OFFICE CLOSED
THANKSGIVING MONDAY OCTOBER 12**

Reminder: St. Leo's Knights of Columbus Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015 in the parish hall after the 5 pm Mass. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth 4-12 and children under 4 are free. Please enter parish hall from Carson St.

Parish Coffee Social after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses next Sunday in the parish hall.

Cherub's Cupboard will be here selling religious articles in the church vestibule next Sunday October 18 after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses.

World Mission Sunday – October 18, 2015

Every parish across the world will celebrate World Mission Sunday, Evangelization of Nations next Sunday October 18. It is a global sign of the Universal Church and Mission. Your prayers and donations will help support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the church is beginning, where it is new. Thank you for your continued support. Offertory envelopes are available at the back of the church.

St. Mary of the People – Workshop

The St. Angela Merici Fraternity is holding a Workshop on Genetically Modified Organisms, (GMOs) their effects on our health and wellness on Wednesday, October 21 at St. Mary of the People at 7:00 pm in their parish hall, 570 Marion Ave, Oshawa, 905-728-2212. Cost: A free will offering.

Holy Family Parish, 91 Ribblesdale Dr, Whitby


The Annual CWL Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 7 from 8 am - 6:00 pm. This event will start with a full course breakfast at 8:00 am. The Holy Family Stitchers will be launching their first collection of beautifully hand-crafted items (quilts, designer handbags, aprons, table runners and lots more) great for Christmas gifts. There will also be knitted items, homemade baked goods, pies, Penny Social and more. Lunch also will be served. A visit from Santa is expected from 11 am – 3 pm.




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