

# DUTIES OF PARENTS

*The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable. (FC 36)*



**P**arents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity and disinterested service are the rule. (CCC 2223)

The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery — the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the “material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.” Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children ... Parents should teach children to avoid the compromising and degrading influences which threaten human societies. (CCC 2223)

Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the “first heralds” ... They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. (LG 11, 2)

Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years...Family catechism precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. (CCC 2226)

## PARENTS’ PRAYER

*Grant us, O Lord Jesus, to imitate faithfully the example of your Holy Family and to make our home another Nazareth. May peace, love and happiness prevail. Grant us the grace to be the parents we should be for our children. Grant that our children may find solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love within the embrace of our home. When the time comes for each of us to go to the everlasting home you have prepared for us, may your glorious Mother and St. Joseph take us to you, after the final grace of a happy death.*