

THE MINISTRY OF PARENTS (and grandparents and godparents)

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OPENING PRAYER

“A bow of the head is made when the three Divine Persons are named together and at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honor Mass is being celebrated.” –*General Instruction of the Roman Missal 275.a (Norms for All Masses)*



A STORY



WHERE TO LOOK?



THE BACKDROP OF MATRIMONY

“Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?” –Rite of Matrimony

OPENING RITE OF BAPTISM (OF AN INFANT)

“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”



OPENING RITE, CONTINUED

“Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?”

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The hands are positioned in the center-left of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The background is dark and moody, with a single, bright beam of light shining from the upper left, creating a dramatic silhouette effect on the hands and illuminating the scene. The overall tone is solemn and spiritual.

PETITIONS

“Make the lives of his parents and godparents
examples of faith to inspire this child.”

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND FAITH IN CHRIST

“Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present this child for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he (she) is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

On your part, you must make it **your constant care to bring him** (her) up in the **practice of the faith**. See that **the divine life** which God gives him (her) is **kept safe** from the poison of sin, to **grow always stronger** in his (her) heart.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptized.”

(Parents and Godparents say “I Do”)



THE WHITE GARMENT

Andrew Jojo, “you have become a new creation,
and have clothed yourself in Christ.
See in this white garment the outward sign of your
Christian dignity.
With your family and friends to help you by word
and example,
bring that dignity unstained
into the everlasting life of heaven.”



LIGHT OF CHRIST

“Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He (she) is to walk always as a child of the light. May he (she) keep the flame of faith alive in his (her) heart.

When the Lord comes, may he (she) go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.”

HERE IT IS!

“God is the giver of all life, human and divine.

May he bless the father of this child.

He and his wife will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of
faith.

May they be also the best of teachers,
bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do,
in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

WHAT IS THE MINISTRY?

- Parents: Bring up their children in the faith and to develop a stronger faith life.
 - Through Inspiring, Oral Instruction, and Example
- Godparents: Help the Parents
 - Accountability
 - Tag-team
- Grandparents: Minister to their children (help them with their ministry)
 - Accountability
 - Tag-team

JUST IN CASE... (CATECHISM QUOTES)

- **Catechism 2221** The fecundity of conjugal love cannot be reduced solely to the procreation of children, but must extend to their moral education and their spiritual formation. "*The role of parents in education* is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute."
- **Catechism 2223** Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.
- **Catechism 2225** Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of *evangelizing their children*.

EQUIPPING THE PARENT, GODPARENT, AND GRANDPARENT

“Thus there cannot be too great an effort on the part of Christian parents to prepare for this ministry of being their own children's catechists and to carry it out with tireless zeal.” –John Paul II (CT 68)

EDUCATION IN VIRTUE, FORMING THE WILL

“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.’” –Catechism 2223

EDUCATION IN THE FAITH AT HOME

“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years...Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith.” –Catechism 2226

INSTRUCTION IN THE HOME

- “The family's catechetical activity has a special character, which is in a sense irreplaceable... This catechesis is more incisive when, in the course of family events (such as the reception of the sacraments, the celebration of great liturgical feasts, the birth of a child, a bereavement) care is taken to explain in the home the Christian or religious content of these events. But that is not enough: Christian parents must strive to follow and repeat, within the setting of family life, the more methodical teaching received elsewhere. The fact that these truths about the main questions of faith and Christian living are thus repeated within a family setting impregnated with love and respect will often make it possible to influence the children in a decisive way for life. The parents themselves profit from the effort that this demands of them, for in a catechetical dialogue of this sort each individual both receives and gives.”

-John Paul II (CT 68)

AN EXAMPLE THAT INSPIRES

- “Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them.” –Catechism 2223

CHOOSING OTHER TEACHERS

“As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to *choose a school for them* which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental. As far as possible parents have the duty of choosing schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators. Public authorities have the duty of guaranteeing this parental right and of ensuring the concrete conditions for its exercise.” –Catechism 2229

**IS HOME CATECHESIS ALSO
HOMESCHOOLING?**

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

- Parent, Godparent, Grandparent
 - Personal Growth as Teachers
 - Examples of Prayer, Knowledge of Doctrine, Living the Faith
 - Accountability
 - Oral Instruction
 - Taking an Interest
 - Having a Presence
 - Behind the scenes work....prayer, suffering, Masses
 - Faith primary, not secondary
 - Building a Catholic Culture

DISCUSSION

- **What are the 4 Marks?**

THE 4 MARKS OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME (THE CONTEXT)

“The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelizing and missionary task.” –Catechism 2205

WHAT DO WE GET? (OR NOT GET)

DISCUSSION

- Your aha moment.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

1. Priority by Word and Action
2. Bringing down the barrier: Supernatural vs. Natural, Sacred vs. Secular, God vs. Fun
3. Intentional Community
4. Developing a Child's Will: Choosing the Carrot over the Cookie



SACRAMENTS AND THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

- Source and Summit of Parenting
- Source and Summit for Catholic Children
- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Holy Communion
- Confession (etc.)
- Why the Liturgy of the Hours?

GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS (GILH)

- “To the different hours of the day the liturgy of the hours extends the praise and thanksgiving, the memorial of the mysteries of salvation, the petitions and the foretaste of heavenly glory that are present in the eucharistic mystery, ‘the center and high point in the whole life of the Christian community.’” –GILH 12
- “The liturgy of the hours is in turn an excellent preparation for the celebration of the eucharist itself, for it inspires and deepens in a fitting way the dispositions necessary for the fruitful celebration of the eucharist: faith, hope, love, devotion, and the spirit of self-denial.” –GILH 12

LITURGY OF THE HOURS IN THE CATECHISM

- **Catechism 1174** The mystery of Christ, his Incarnation and Passover, which we celebrate in the Eucharist especially at the Sunday assembly, permeates and transfigures the time of each day, through the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, "the divine office."... In this "public prayer of the Church," ...the Liturgy of the Hours "is truly the voice of the Bride herself addressed to her Bridegroom. It is the very prayer which Christ himself together with his Body addresses to the Father.
- **Catechism 1175** The Liturgy of the Hours is intended to become the prayer of the whole People of God..."Pastors of souls should see to it that the principal hours, especially Vespers, are celebrated in common in church on Sundays and on the more solemn feasts. The laity, too, are encouraged to recite the divine office, either with the priests, or among themselves, or even individually."
- **Catechism 1178** The Liturgy of the Hours, which is like an extension of the Eucharistic celebration, does not exclude but rather in a complementary way calls forth the various devotions of the People of God, especially adoration and worship of the Blessed Sacrament.

THE SACRAMENTAL DYNAMIC

- Give, Encounter, Receive, Respond
- “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister. Nevertheless, the fruits of the sacraments also depend on the disposition of the one who receives them.” –Catechism 1128
- Make a habit and grow their disposition

MYSTAGOGY

- “So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him”
–Acts 8

MYSTAGOGY FROM BENEDICT XVI: SC 64

- “The Church's great liturgical tradition teaches us that fruitful participation in the liturgy requires that one be personally conformed to the mystery being celebrated, offering one's life to God in unity with the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the whole world. ...the faithful be helped to make their interior dispositions correspond to their gestures and words. Otherwise, however carefully planned and executed our liturgies may be, they would risk falling into a certain ritualism. Hence the need to provide an education in eucharistic faith capable of enabling the faithful to live personally what they celebrate. Given the vital importance of this personal and conscious *participatio*, what methods of formation are needed? The Synod Fathers unanimously indicated, in this regard, a mystagogical approach to catechesis, which would lead the faithful to understand more deeply the mysteries being celebrated. ”

BENEDICT XVI CONTINUED

- “A convincing indication of the effectiveness of eucharistic catechesis is surely an increased sense of the mystery of God present among us. This can be expressed in concrete outward signs of reverence for the Eucharist which the process of mystagogy should inculcate in the faithful. ” –Sacrament of Charity 65

LEVELS OF MYSTAGOGY

- Names and Ideas: Jesus, Altar, Chalice, Genuflect, Silence, Prayer, Priest, Body of Christ, etc.
- Habits: Prayer, Gestures, Postures (Imitation)
- Why? Kissing an altar, using incense, candles, raised ambo, a Crucifix, etc.
- The Mind's Focus
- The Heart's Focus

MYSTAGOGY EXAMPLES

- The Church Doors
- Holy Water
- Genuflecting
- Stained Glass Windows
- Confiteor
- Kyrie
- Readings
- Offertory
- Epiclesis
- Consecration
- Doxology
- Holy Communion
- Dismissal

DISCUSSION

- What have you always wanted to know?

DAILY PRAYER: INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

- Daily encounters with God (rooted in the Sacraments)
- Quick Prayer: Prayer before Meals, Good Night Prayers, etc.
 - Go beyond
- Individual Prayers
- Devotional Prayers: Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Lectio Divina
 - Rooted in the Sacraments

ADULTS AND PRAYER

- Commitment
 - Reverence and Trust
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- How do you respond to life's moments?
 - How do you discipline during prayer?
 - How does prayer change you?

TEACHING PRAYER

- Teach the Reverence
- Teach the Words
- Teach spontaneous prayer
- Teach journaling
- Teach to love silence...

TO LOVE SILENCE

- Be careful of (use prudence)
 - Tablets and Iphones
 - Headphones
 - Daily use of television, video games, web surfing, and texting
- Practice
 - Boredom
 - Daily reading
 - Reading together
 - Walks

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien
- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis
- The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis
- The Space Trilogy by C.S. Lewis
- The Divine Comedy by Dante
- The Adventures of Will Wilder by Raymond Auroyo
- Classics: King Arthur, Robin Hood, Treasure Island, Beauty and the Beast, Brother's Grimm Fairy Tales, Pinocchio, Mythology

DISCUSSION

- First prayer you remember learning...

SCRIPTURE

- What is Scripture?
 - “Indeed, the word of God is given to us in sacred Scripture as an inspired testimony to revelation; together with the Church’s living Tradition, it constitutes the supreme rule of faith.”

–Verbum Domini 18

- Testimony to Salvation History
- Inspired written testimony

READ REGULARLY

- My Family
- Focus on the story specifics and then go deeper
- Show reverence during the reading
- Read the Story of Salvation
- Connect it to the faith

READING THE STORY

- Christmas-January
 - Birth of Christ – Baptism of Jesus & Wedding at Cana
- Ordinary Time before Lent
 - The 1st half of a Gospel
- Lent
 - Most of the 2nd half of a Gospel
- Easter
 - Conclude the Gospel and Begin the first half of the Acts of the Apostles
- Summer
 - Finish Acts
 - Read a couple of New Testament Letters
- Late-Summer
 - Genesis, Exodus, Joshua
- Early Fall
 - Judges, 1st Samuel, 2nd Samuel
- Late Fall
 - 1st ad 2nd Chronicles, Handful of Prophets
- Advent
 - Ezra & Nehemiah (selections)
 - 1st and 2nd Maccabees
 - Old Testament Prophecies
 - Mary, Elizabeth, John the Baptist

SHARE GRACES

- Scripture: God speaks
- Sit with it, imagine it, repeat it, etc.
 - Share graces
- Going Deeper: Lectio Divina

MISSIONARY WORK

- Emphasis of Confirmation
- Catechesis on the Collection
 - Focus on financial and spiritual support
- Help with younger children/cousins
- Volunteer as a Catechist (teens too!)
- Purchase materials or pamphlets for your parish
- Invite someone to Mass (kids too!)
- Pro-Life Activities
- Help the homeless and hungry
- Something big! (like the disciples being sent early)

THE GOAL

- Primary Goal: Closer to Christ=Holier=Joy and Purpose=Heaven
- Secondary Goal: Closer as a Family & Improve Society

ENDING PRAYER

- Connect with me:
 - Facebook Page: “Brandon Harvey”
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 - Email me: brandonsharvey@cox.net
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- Let me know how I can be of assistance to you or pray for you.