




# STEWARDSHIP STARTS AT HOME

HELPING PARISH FAMILIES LIVE STEWARDSHIP AT HOME

A photograph showing several hands being held together in a supportive grip. The hands are of different ages and are being held together in a way that suggests care and support. The background is a blurred hospital bed with white linens. A dark teal text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

NOW I CAN BE A  
GOOD STEWARD

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# WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

## DISCIPLESHIP

When We Say YES to follow Jesus

## STEWARDSHIP

How We Live Out that YES in our daily lives



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# WHERE DOES STEWARDSHIP START?

“IF YOU WANT  
HAPPINESS  
IN THE WORLD...

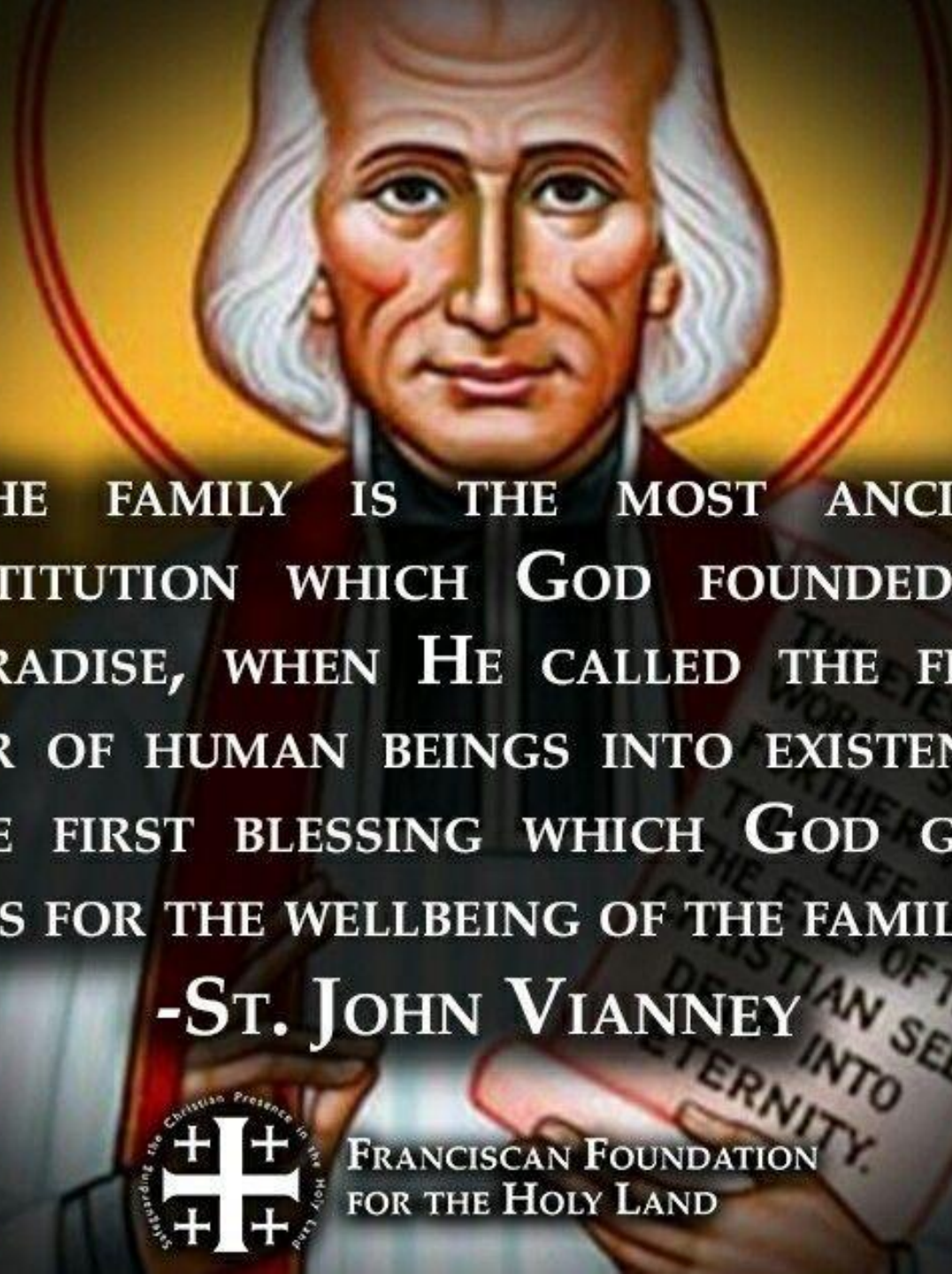
GO HOME AND LOVE YOUR  
FAMILIES”



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# WHAT IS A DOMESTIC CHURCH?

- It simply means “little church”
- Your parish has hundreds of these.
- It is our first community and the most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us, and acts in the world.
- It should be united with and supported by parishes
- We need to enable families to recognize that they are a domestic church. Many do not.



**“THE FAMILY IS THE MOST ANCIENT INSTITUTION WHICH GOD FOUNDED IN PARADISE, WHEN HE CALLED THE FIRST PAIR OF HUMAN BEINGS INTO EXISTENCE. THE FIRST BLESSING WHICH GOD GAVE WAS FOR THE WELLBEING OF THE FAMILY.”**

**-ST. JOHN VIANNEY**



FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION  
FOR THE HOLY LAND

# HOW'S IT GOING?

- Bishop Barron coined the phrase "Generation of Nones"
- For each new Catholic, six Catholics exit the Church
- Young adults – who were raised Catholic, received Sacraments, many attended Catholic schools – no longer identify with a religion
- They are not going to another religion; they are simply not engaging in ANY religion.



# DOES CSC SEE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES?

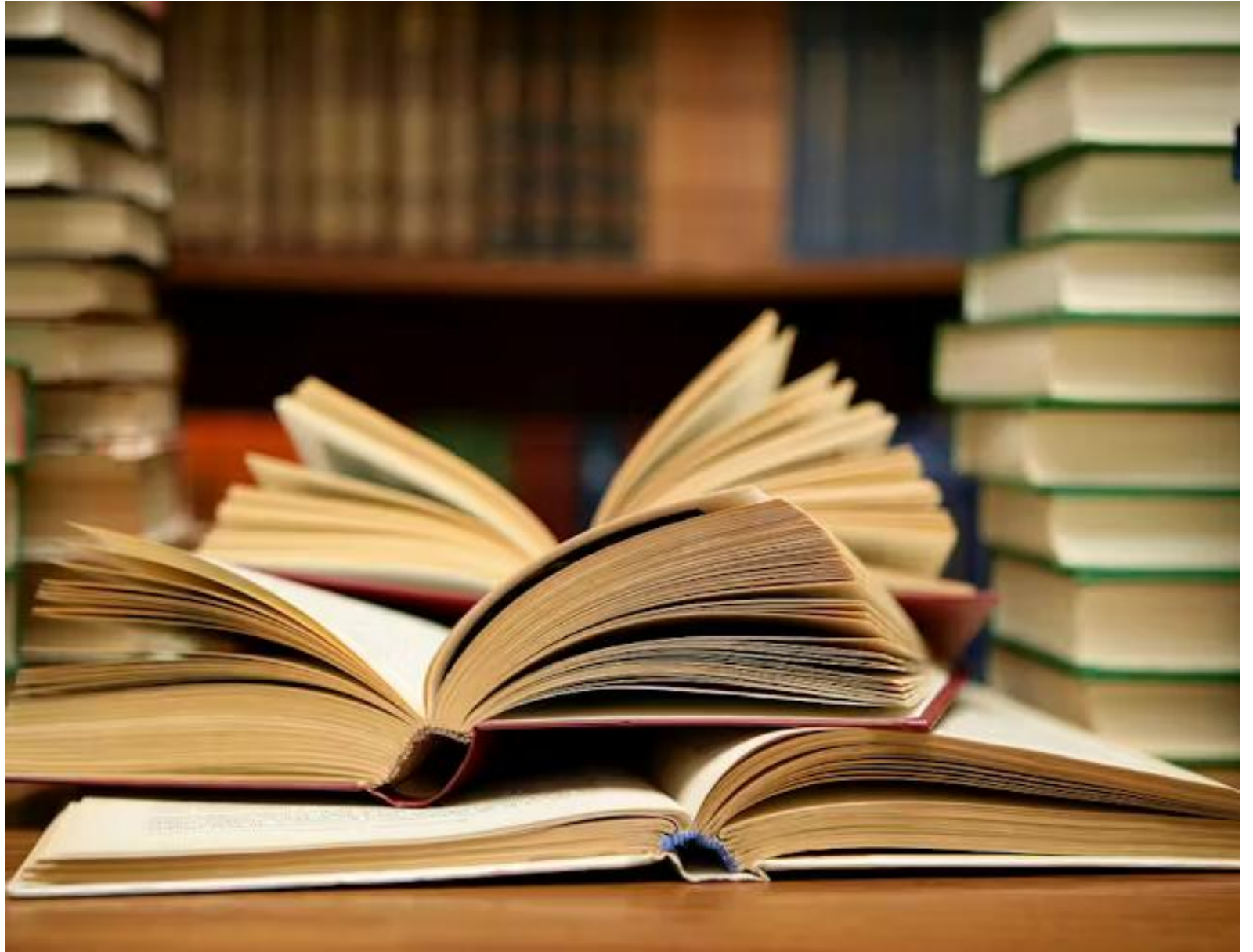
YES! HOMES THAT LIVE  
STEWARDSHIP  
"AS A WAY OF LIFE"  
IN AN AUTHENTIC,  
ONGOING MANNER  
EXPERIENCE A  
DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE



# “THE LIFE OF THE PARENTS IS THE BOOK CHILDREN READ”

- SAINT AUGUSTINE

- What are the children in your parishes witnessing from their parents?
- Are children living in “stewardship way of life” environments?



# STRENGTHENING THE FAITH OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

“There is no more urgent task for the Church today than strengthening the faith of children and youth.”

- John Roberto  
Catholic Author



# SUPPORTING PARENTS AS THE PRIMARY FAITH FORMATORS

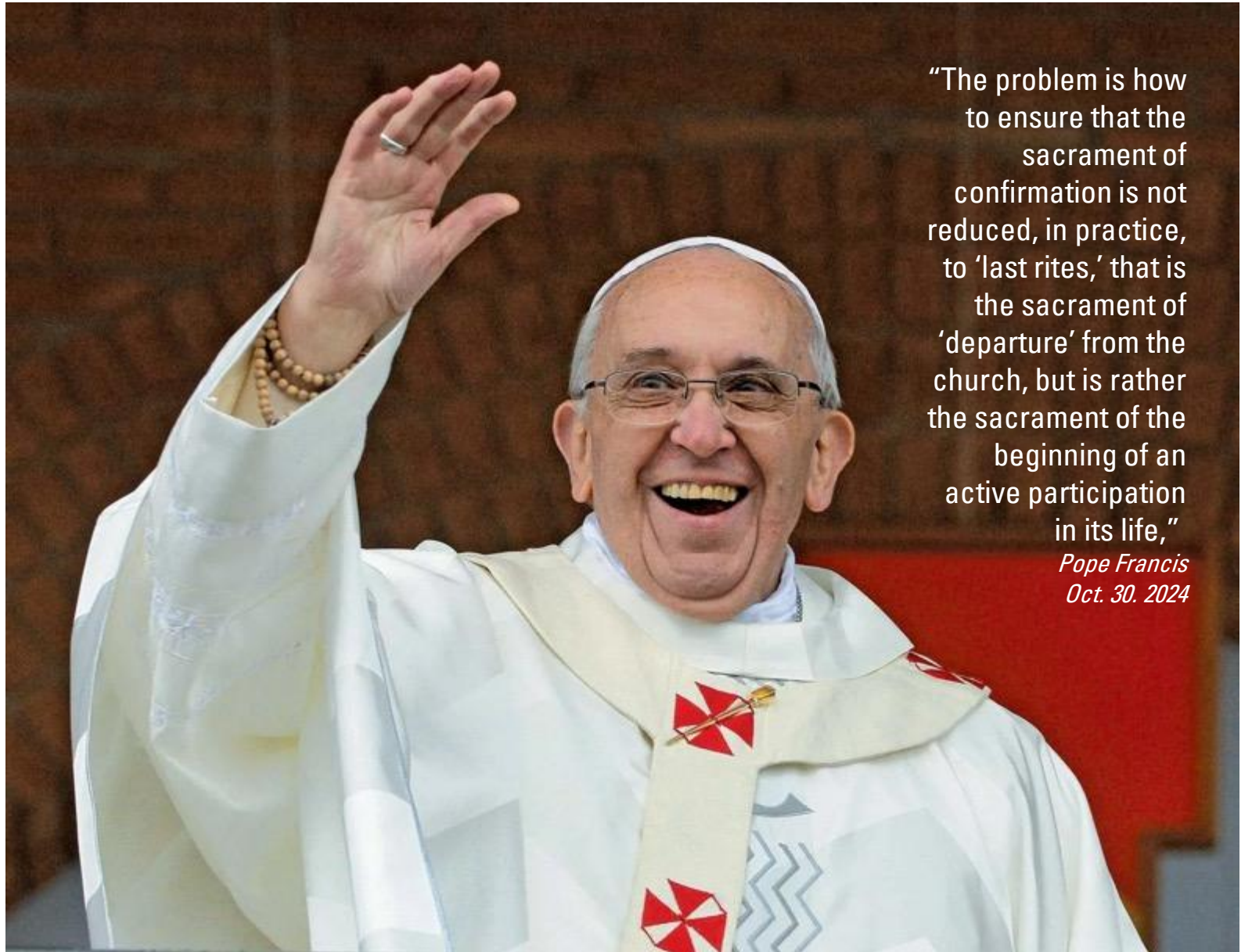
- I would argue...  
“There is no more urgent task for the Church today than helping parents understand their role in their child’s faith formation.”
- We find many parents rely on the parish instead of *personally* educating them in their faith, especially a “stewardship way of life.”



Do the parents in your parishes believe  
“I am the religious formator of my children”?

# CONFIRMATION: THE SACRAMENT OF GOODBYE

- Once young people receive it then they do not come to church again until they want to get married.
- Pope Francis says, “that parishes need to identify laypeople “who have had a personal encounter with Christ and have had a true experience of the Spirit,” and ask them to lead the confirmation preparation classes.”



“The problem is how to ensure that the sacrament of confirmation is not reduced, in practice, to ‘last rites,’ that is the sacrament of ‘departure’ from the church, but is rather the sacrament of the beginning of an active participation in its life,”

*Pope Francis  
Oct. 30, 2024*



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## HOW DO FAMILIES PRAY?

- 80% of Husbands and Wives do NOT pray together.
- 70% of parents do NOT pray with their children
- 48% discuss vocations (religious life, single life, married life)
- Only 44% speak with their children about the Catholic faith daily or weekly.
- Four family types to watch out for:
  - Half-hearted
  - Individualistic
  - Religiously Indifferent
  - Low Socio-economic

# HOW CAN WE HELP PARENTS AT HOME?

- Do your parishioners find helpful resources in your parish for sharing their faith within their families?
- What ministries should be redesigned to better meet family needs – for both young and old?



# REMINDING PARENTS OF THEIR IMPACT AS PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION EDUCATORS



- Parents have the MOST SIGNIFICANT influence on the religious and spiritual outcomes of their child.
- Parents of American youth play the leading role in shaping the character of their religious and spiritual lives, even well after they leave home and often for the rest of their lives.
- It is critically important that parents are authentic examples sharing with their children their struggles and failings.
- The emergence of the new generation of dedicated young Catholics will rise and fall with the choices of their parents.

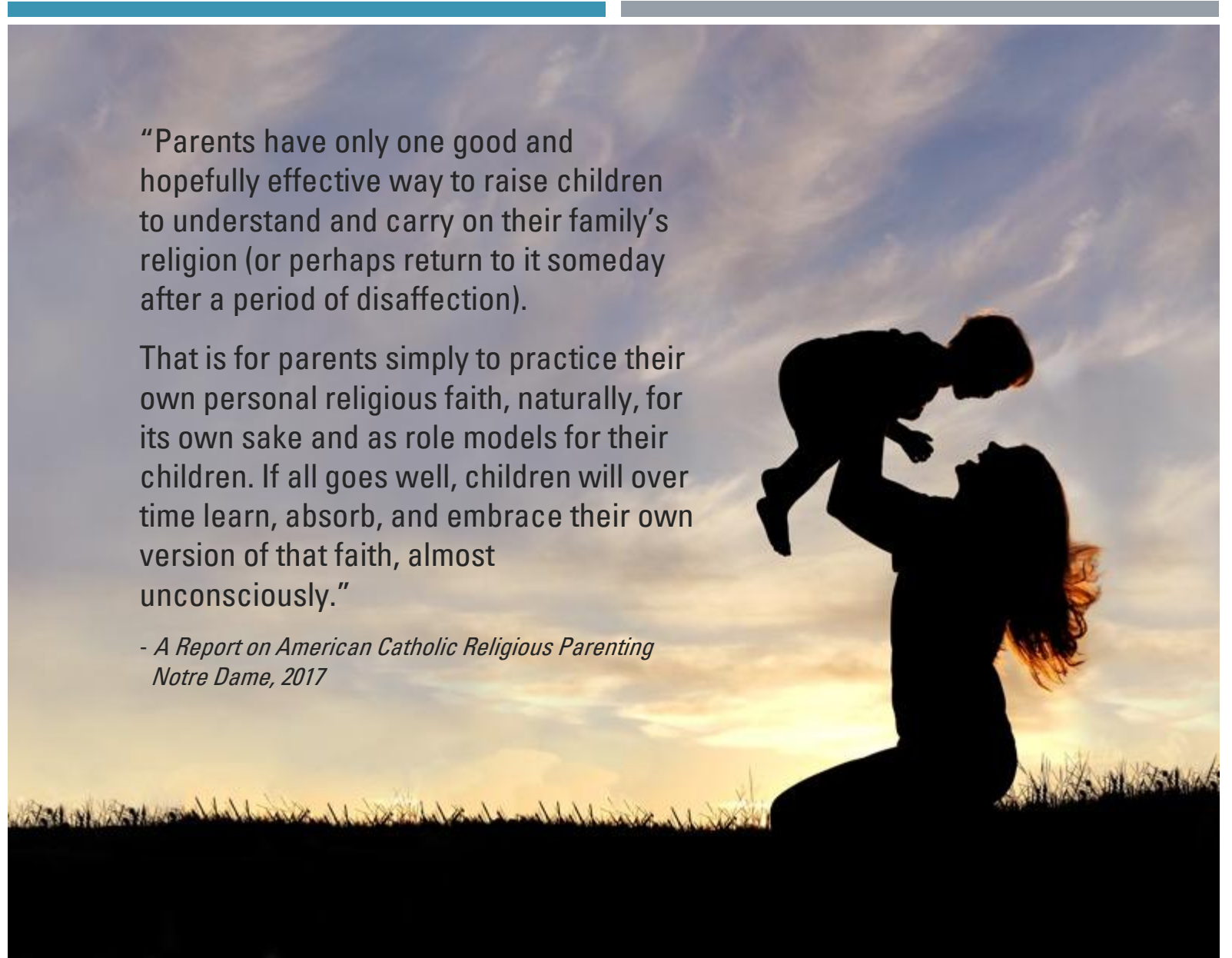
# ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO PRACTICE

- The crucial location where young people's religious outcomes are largely decided is not the parish or Catholic school, but the home.
- This means that the most important agent in the religious and spiritual outcomes of children and youth are neither clergy nor youth ministers, neither educators nor the voices of popular culture and media, but parents.

"Parents have only one good and hopefully effective way to raise children to understand and carry on their family's religion (or perhaps return to it someday after a period of disaffection).

That is for parents simply to practice their own personal religious faith, naturally, for its own sake and as role models for their children. If all goes well, children will over time learn, absorb, and embrace their own version of that faith, almost unconsciously."

*- A Report on American Catholic Religious Parenting  
Notre Dame, 2017*



# LIVE STEWARDSHIP EVERYDAY

- TIME – Do you pray daily? Before meals? Before bed? Pray during struggles? Pray in thanksgiving?
- TALENT – Do you share your gifts to help one another? Do you do so with a servant's heart like Christ?
- TREASURE – Do you bring Jesus into your family budgeting? Do you gratefully return to God? Are you generous?



# NUTURE FAITH AT HOME

- Reading the Bible as a family
- Praying together as a family
- Eating together as a family
- Having family faith conversations
- Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home
- Attending Mass regularly together
- Providing moral instruction
- Finding a mass while out of town for sporting events



Parents modeling religious practices is primary,  
and explaining belief systems is secondary.

# INVITE FAMILY INVOLVEMENT WITH A STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

- Opportunity to invite families (youth & adults) to take a step in their faith
- Annual event in life of parish
- Make commitments to time (prayer), talent (ministries) and treasure (offertory giving)
- If don't do this, would families take these steps on their own?

**FORMED IN CHRIST**  
ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Youth Commitment Card**

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Youth First & Last Name (May be used by more than one child)

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Parents' First & Last Name

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Mailing Address

---

City State ZIP

---

Telephone  check if parents' number

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Email  check if parents' email

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Parent Signature

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After completion, please return this card with your family's commitment card.

DISCLAIMER: By signing, you give St. Peter Catholic Church permission to contact your child via their mobile device for church related events and classes.

**FORMED IN CHRIST**  
ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



**2024 Commitment Card**  
*My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure*

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First & Last Name

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Phone

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Email

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Spouse: *First & Last Name*

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Spouse: *Phone*

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Spouse: *Email*

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Address

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City State ZIP

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Please bring this card to Mass, mail using the envelope provided or fill it out online at [www.cospq.org](http://www.cospq.org). Thanks and God bless you!

# POSITIVE RESULTS OF PRACTICING STEWARDSHIP

- Expands family prayer
- Enforces gratitude
- Allows family members to use their God-given gifts to give glory to God
- Increases generosity
- Amplifies service
- Deepens faith lives



A life of stewardship, especially for families who seek to follow Christ, does actually work in every instance, because stewardship starts with the unique gifts of each family member, given by God, for good.

- Fr. Godfrey Mullen

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# PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

“Let each Father make his home a church. Are you not responsible for the salvation of your children? Are you not likely to give an account for their upbringing? Just as clergy will give an account for their flocks, so Fathers of Families will have to answer before God for all the people in their home.”

- Saint John Chrysostom

