

RAISING A CATHOLIC FAMILY

Introduction and Opening:

Website, Books, etc.

-Today share some insights and stories, the biblical and Catholic teaching on families

Family is crucial — center of everything

Saints have said that in the last times the **devil will attack the family**

A Few Disclaimers:

1. I am not a psychologist or doctor.
2. **Married 40 years**
3. **Someone who learned everything the hard way**
3. This is **just a summary**
4. **Each family person is unique** like each person is unique; these things have worked for us and I think we

have a successful track record. You may find help from what we've learned.

[My School for the Catholic Family: My Childhood:](#)

Told you part of the story in my first talk

There is **no perfect family**: my dad and mom had **good and bad**

Dad — love but no discipline;

Mom — stubborn and too idealistic

Family and children very

Mom's Childhood and breaking the cycle

13 grade schools

Stayed at home to give security to her kids

Both radically converting in 1953 —

Demonstrated true discipleship

Dad's love and acceptance

He was like **Jesus** to many people

God is like their fathers — for good or bad

Dad and **Ford Motor Company** promotions

Dad and **evangelism**

Dad's **funeral**

My Childhood **forged my view** of God, life, family and religion

[Theoretical #1: the Family:](#)

God's Creation and His Command; Reflection of the Trinity:

So where does it all begin? *Genesis* (means "beginning")

-There is something **further back than Nature** and that something is personal, creative, loving, good, a Trinity, intelligent . . .

-Without a Christian **understanding of this Being**, we cannot understand life and reality.

-Family is a great **work of art**. As God creates, we in his image are also creators.

We co-create **eternal beings** — our children

We co-create **masterpieces of art** — the family

Genesis 1:26-28

27 God created man in his image;
in the divine image he created him;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.

Center of God's Plan

So what happens when the family breaks down? **Look at Detroit**

Theoretical #2: Husband and Wife and Kids:
Reflection of the Trinity

- Changing the meaning of "Family" any arrangement

Sacrament: in the hands of the Church or State? A creature of the State?

-Protestants rejected Marriage as a Sacrament

God himself is the author of marriage." ..Marriage is not a purely human institution."

From the love of husband and wife comes children; as by the love between the Father and the Son comes the Holy Spirit. The Love between the Father and the Son spirates the Holy Spirit.

-It is our vocation! We were created for THIS!

-Profound, cosmic, heavenly vocation

Practical #1: Husband and Wife, Covenant Partners; Lovers, Best Friends, and Spiritual Adventurers

OK, now to the Practical:

First: The Foundation:

Husband and Wife; Covenant Partners; Lovers, and Best Friends

-Family is like a **work of Art**, a life-time project that takes great planning, effort, energy, personal cost, prayer.

Big problem areas: sex, money, children, **time together**

Janet says, "Picture yourself in **rocking chair** on the porch. What will be important then?

-**You won't say**, "I wished I'd put more hours into the **job**, wish I'd played more **golf**, wish I'd read more **newspapers.**"

-Relationship and Teamwork for a **lifetime**;
CONVENANT, not just a contract. **Protestantism** has
caved in.

The **foundation** must be **STRONG**, we must work at it
daily

Fiddler on the Roof: "But do you **LOVE** me?"

Don't assume her love— earn it again every day

-**Husbands**—no flowers for her?, Shame on you! Go
ahead wives, poke your husband right in the ribs!

-**Wives**—no passionate kisses as he comes in the door,
shame on you! Husbands, poke your wife right back.

"**Love Stinks**" as one songwriter put it. "**Can't get that
Lovin' Feelin' Again**" as another writes.

Real Love is **AGAPE!** Covenant!

A **tender plant** will not survive without care.

Love can grow cold.

Women have to understand how difficult the situation is for men today.

- **Pornography** is everywhere; free, lonely women are easy to come by . . .
- **Men need the closeness and love of their wives.**
- They need compliments. They need their **manhood affirmed.**

Holiness Factory! Good Sex as a road to heaven!

Men need to understand the pressures on women.

- Loneliness, family pressures, lack of romance and the desire to feel beautiful and needed.

Frequent **dates and intimate times** are needed and necessary.

Basic hygiene is important but often neglected after the romance and infatuation is over.

-Husbands, **love your wives**, lay down your life for her!

St. Paul writes to the Corinthians in chapter 7, "But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. [**very radical stuff for 1st century Corinth!**]

"Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

-Spouses need to **help each other get to heaven—**

Marriage and a family are **means to holiness.**

-**Visible affection** with spouse, **compliments** in public!
Very important!

-Kids and other couples learn best by example

NOW KIDS COME ALONG

- Requires more creativity, but it WORTH it!

Life issues, and Procreation

We practiced **contraceptives** for 18 years . . .

-Pray together and for each other, read together, attend Mass together

-Forgiving, listening, loving, romantic, plan everything together

Respect each other

-Establish family traditions, follow the Church Year, entreat the Saints, submit yourselves to God every day.

-Frequent confession together (James 5) and with a priest.

-BE A TEAM

Take weekly dates even when difficult

If this if FOREIGN, see counselor

[Practical #2: Raising Children and Being a Family: Teamwork with Kids, Maintaining Love, Sanity, Discipline, and Spirituality](#) (education, spiritual training, and raising Catholic kids in the **Small Workshop**)

Whole new dimension!

No longer just husband and wife but now **MOM & DAD.....**

.... judge and jury, Friend and Parent, Disciplinarian and Comforter, Teacher and Example, Taxi driver and Doctor, . . .

-No mandatory training

-Learn-as-you-go — the better your own childhood the better beginning you will have.

"great schools" or "disasters institutes".

-What if we've come from very broken and sad families and backgrounds?

-The cycle can be broken by YOU! My mom . . .

Practical things with KIDS

-Keep life simple and uncomplicated.

Stay home with the family!

Try to include kids in everything

-Don't let the parish eat you alive

-The Empty Nest will come. God understands the various stages in our life.

Raising Kids to be Rebels

-We are not main stream; now a rebel subcultural

-Associate with likeminded families and good friends;
oversee children's friendships; 1 Cor 15:33 "Do
not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals'."

Get rid of TV and control computers and iPhones!

-**Read aloud to kids.** Pick good books: *Where the Red Fern Grows, The Yearling, The Hobbit, The Little House on the Prairie* series, *Narnia*, Lives of the Saints which our kids love! etc.

-**Family Reading and Movie Night.** Get good old movies like *I Confess, Lilies of the Field, The Scarlet and the Black*, and a hundred others. Footprints of God,. Ignatius Press sells them.

-**Family projects** such as the Family History

Adolescence is a particularly difficult

Take daughters on dates — sons on camping trips.

A father's love and discipline is MOST important for boy's and girls

Discipline

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it." Not a promise but a proverb, inspired Jewish wisdom.

Proverbs 13:24 "He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

-**Discipline** includes everything, not just punishment, which is only one aspect.

-**Discipline** comes from the word "disciple" which means "learner".

-Each child is **very different** and needs to be thought and prayed about individually.

A Few Comments and Principles:

-Don't let kids run the home. No such thing as "Terrible Two's"; no such thing as a "bad kid"

-Parents must maintain a united front

-Father must love & protect mom.

What is the most important thing a father can do for his children? Love their mom!

Defiance v. Irresponsibility;

-Don't avoid confrontation

-Examples: Restaurants, Dan Gibson, sleeping with the dog,

-Communicate with your kids: **My letter to Jesse**

-"**Cats in the Cradle**" by Harry Chapin; seize the moment for time is short. "Dad there's a boy outside."