

## The Responsibility of Raising Our Children in the Faith

2.

When you present your child for baptism, before Christ and his Church, you are:

- professing your own faith in Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross for us and was raised up by the Father,
- claiming to be one of his disciples;
- rejecting anything that is contrary to our baptismal calling as followers of Christ and contrary to our dignity as God's sons and daughters;
- accepting the responsibility to be the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith by:
  - Bringing him/her up in the practice of the faith by living it out and celebrating it with the community of faith in the Sunday Eucharist;
  - Protecting his/her faith by seeing that the divine life which God gives him/her is kept safe from sin and helped to always grow stronger in his/her heart
  - Teaching him/her through word and example about God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour.

A proper reverence for God's gift of baptism is shown when parents take seriously their involvement in preparing for this sacrament and the responsibilities that are assumed after their baby is baptized. One cannot give someone faith, but one can raise children with the Catholic Tradition of our Christian faith and be a living witness. Remember, children learn prayer and Christian living through imitation.

**There must be a well-founded hope**

**that your child will be raised in the Catholic faith.**

For Personal Reflection:

1. What do you think are your strengths and weaknesses in being able to respond to the obligations outlined above?
2. In what areas do you need further conversion in faith and your personal practice of it?  
*[see Examination of Conscience on back]*



# **KNOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST, AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

## **LOVE GOD WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART, SOUL, AND MIND**

- 1) Do I recognize God's authority over my life, or do I follow my own agenda, fitting God in when it's convenient/ Do my own ambitions or desires, my career, or any need for human respect control my life, rather than God's authority and word?
- 2) Do I open myself to the love of God each day and recognize God in my life through daily prayer?
- 3) Do I honor God by participating in the Eucharist each Sunday or have I been neglectful and indifferent? Have I had sufficient respect in Church for the Eucharistic presence of Christ? Have I recently made a good confession before receiving Holy Communion?
- 4) Do I reverence God's name in my speech? Have I used the Name of the Lord Jesus in vain, as a curse word or in a frivolous way?
- 5) Have I refused to believe any specific thing that Christ has taught through his Church in matters of faith or morals? Have I supported the work of Christ's church within my own parish family with volunteer help and financial assistance?

## **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR...**

- 1) Do I build up or break down relationships with members of my family, close relatives, fellow workers, neighbors? Do my words or actions reflect self-centredness?
- 2) Am I concerned only for myself, or do I show compassion and concern in word and deed for others, especially the poor, less fortunate, sick and suffering? Do I recognize and respond to my obligation as a Christian to be aware of injustice in society and to foster justice?
- 3) Do I allow myself to be controlled by moods at home or at work? Am I angry, bitter, or resentful toward anyone, particularly a family member? How long have I harbored these attitudes? Do I confront the sin in my anger, or do I savor it?
- 4) Have I been truthful in my word as well as in my actions? Have I unjustly betrayed the confidence of another?
- 5) Have I forgiven everyone who has injured or offended me? Have I damaged anyone's reputation or dignity through gossip and/or lies? Have I been rash in judging the character of another person?
- 6) Have I taken anything that was not my own (i.e., shop-lifting, stealing from the workplace)? Have I cheated anyone out of something that is justly theirs (i.e., creditors, insurance companies, government taxes)? Have I failed to give my employer an honest day's work for an honest day's pay? Have I damaged private or public property or defaced it by vandalism?
- 8) Have I unjustly discriminated against others because of sex, race, colour, social condition, language, or religion?

## **AS YOURSELF**

- 9) Do I give my mind over to lustful thoughts (fantasies or daydreams)? Has my conversation included obscene, vulgar or off-color language or stories? Have I read pornography or watched movies or television programs which would grieve the Holy Spirit within me? Have I acted impurely by myself or with others?
- 10) Have I abused my body through the misuse of food, drugs or alcohol? Have I gambled to excessive amounts, in the pursuit of pleasure or greed (i.e., lotteries, bingo)?
- 11) Have I participated in the occult, fortunetelling, palm reading, astrology, or other superstitious activities? Have I made use of satanic signs or symbols?
- 12) Are there any other areas in which the Holy Spirit is leading me toward repentance (past sins forgotten or deliberately covered over; troubling hurts that need healing; special areas of difficulty that I see)?