

Parents Passing on the Faith



A Resource from the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life

A parish kit in solidarity with the International Pilgrimage of Families to
the Tomb of St Peter in the Year of Faith

Sunday 27th October, 2013



In a nutshell

International Pilgrimage of Families to the Tomb of St Peter in the Year of Faith October 27th 2013

What:

An international gathering of families with Pope Francis as part of celebration of the Year of Faith

Where:

- In St Peter's Basilica
- Also celebrated in parishes throughout the world.

Theme:

Role of Parents in Transmission of Faith in the Family

Australian strategy:

- Affirm parents for their irreplaceable role in passing on the faith
- Provide simple suggestions for everyday situations
- Encourage further reflection on this vital topic
- Encourage a sense of joy in the gift of faith
- Pray for families
- Build a sense of solidarity with the Universal Church

This kit contains:

- A reproducible leaflet: 'Parents Passing on the Faith'
- Bulletin clip material
- Liturgy suggestions
- Homily notes

Thank you for celebrating the gifts of faith and family.

A Letter to Parish Personnel

Dear Friends,

This parish kit is presented as a resource to encourage 'Parents Passing on the Faith' in the family. It is designed for Sunday October 27th 2013, in solidarity with the 'International Pilgrimage of Families to the Tomb of Peter', led by Pope Francis as part of the Year of Faith.

However, the material could be used on any other Sunday appropriate for your parish.

The kit includes:

- A leaflet which can be easily copied and handed out at mass;
- Bulletin clips;
- Homily and liturgy notes for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C;

This material can also be downloaded from the website of the Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council (www.acmfc.org.au)

The Year of Faith helps to remind us of the joys and challenges in developing our own faith and passing it on to others. These materials focus particularly on the role of parents in passing on the faith to the home.

I strongly encourage you to use the enclosed materials on October 27 as part of our world-wide celebration.

Thank you for your ongoing support for parents and families,

In Christ,

Bishop Michael Kennedy

Family Delegate, Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life

How to use this kit

The basics:

1. Photocopy the handout 'Parents Passing on the Faith' and distribute at Sunday Mass on 27th October (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time).
2. Consult liturgy notes for this day.
3. Consider adding clipboard items in the bulletin on that Sunday
4. Distribute the handout to parents of children preparing for Sacraments (any year).

Bulletin Clipboard

Parents Passing on the Faith in the Family

As we celebrate Mass today, thousands of families are gathering around Pope Francis in St Peter's in the culmination of a 'Pilgrimage of Families to the Tomb of St Peter in Rome. It is part of the celebration of the Year of Faith. Let's pray for all families that they may be ever more effective places where the faith is passed on.

The Transmission of the Faith in the Family

Parents are the first educators in faith for their children. In today's Mass we recognize the great care and concern of all parents for their children. Let's pray for all families that they may be ever more effective places where the faith is passed on. Take home the handout 'Parents Passing on the Faith', available in the parish today.

The Transmission of the Faith in the Family

As we celebrate Mass today, thousands of families are gathering around Pope Francis as part of an international pilgrimage to the Tomb of St Peter.

As part of the Year of Faith, today we particularly acknowledge the role of parents in the transmission of the faith in the family.

Let's join in solidarity with all those on pilgrimage to Rome praying for all families. Take home the handout 'Passing on the Faith', available in the parish today.

Liturgy Notes

Introduction

In our celebration today, we rejoice in God's two-fold gifts of faith and family.

Most of us received our faith through our families, especially from our parents. And it is in the day to day events of family life that we develop and most live out our faith.

Penitential Rite

We come to the Father through Jesus, so as members of his body, the Church, we pray:

Lord, you show your love in the caring of our family members. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you make us members of your faith family. Christ have mercy.

Lord, you call us to share your love and your message of forgiveness with those closest to us. Lord, have mercy

Prayers of the Faithful

Introduction: As adopted children of the Father, with confidence let us express our deepest needs.

Intercessions:

- We pray for Pope Francis as he gathers with families from around the world at the Tomb of St Peter in Rome today. May he continue to provide wise and loving leadership.
- We pray that government and community leaders may provide justice for all families, especially those with special needs.
- We pray for those who experience hurt in their families, that they may be comforted and not lose heart.
- We pray that we may find ways to show our appreciation of our family members and that we may recognise the presence of Jesus in our relationships.
- We pray for all families – may they be places where the faith can be shared and encouraged.
- We pray for those who are facing illness and severe stress – especially among members of our parish families.
- We pray for the faithful departed, especially those of our parish family.

Conclusion:

God of love, you gave us families in which we can grow up to experience love and to mature in faith. May we learn to support our family members so that we can continue to grow in faith. Amen.

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

Jesus called his Father 'Abba'. In the same intimate way, let us pray to the Father of all families using his words:

Final Blessing

May your relationships with your families be marked by appreciation and love. Amen.

May your faith in Jesus be your source of strength in times of weakness. Amen.

And may the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and your families forever. Amen.



Homily Ideas

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Si 35:15-17, 20-22

2nd Reading: 2 Tm: 4: 6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Lk 18:9-14

Day in and day out, family is the place where, despite all the divisions and upsets of life, we have our best chance of being accepted – of being taken back. Family life is the ‘extraordinary in the ordinary’. Family is also the place where, far more than anywhere else, in their private prayer, people are likely to pray earnestly and by name for each of us. That’s why we call the Christian family the ‘Domestic Church’. It’s the place where our faith, our love, and our values are passed on.

Let’s do something about it...

In this Mass, let’s ask the Spirit to fill us with an appreciation for the amazing love and commitment and caring of our parents, our children, our family members. Let us give thanks to God for family members who have helped us on our faith journey and let us pray particularly for those family members who are struggling to find their way in their faith. You could take home the handout on the theme of ‘Parents Passing on the Faith’ and talk about it with others or pass it on to family members. We could start today by affirming and thanking our own fathers and mothers and also all our family members – whether it be in the sign of peace at this Mass or in a telephone call or a little note after we go home. Let’s pray for each other and give thanks to God for each other.

... our faith reminds us that the Lord always listens to our prayers

And above all, let’s not keep dwelling on our weaknesses. Let’s focus instead on the infinite mercy and love of God. In today’s Gospel, the tax collector expressed his faith in God by acknowledging his failures and turning in trust to him. As a result, he went home at rights with God. The great gift of faith should be a great cause for joy and celebration because that faith is in a God who is love. And being the source of all love he works through all the caring actions of parents for their children.

The first reading today reminds us that the Lord is always there to listen to us, no matter what our situation or how desperate our concerns. In faith we put all our concerns in his hands. And as the passage says, our humble prayers pierce the clouds and the

Lord will not be slow to answer.

... in solidarity with the Universal Church

At this moment, thousands of families are gathered around Pope Francis in St Peter’s. It is the conclusion of an International Pilgrimage to the Tomb of St Peter as part of the Year of Faith. So in this parish, in this corner of the globe, let’s unite ourselves with the rest of the Church throughout the world. Let’s put our efforts to pass on the faith in our families in the Lord’s hands. And let’s thank him especially for our parents. Pope Francis himself has given many examples of the influence of both his father and his mother on his own faith development. His testimony is a reminder to us all that we can never underestimate the significance of the little things we do when they are done in love and in faith.

We can judge ourselves too strongly

Most fathers and mothers are very concerned about the faith practice of their children, or, more often, the lack of it. It is so easy for parents to blame themselves or to blame others for things being different to when we were young. Yet, what is most amazing is the enormous effort and love and prayer that the mums and dads puts into rearing their children. Parents are tireless in their care for their children and only God can know the extent of the personal sacrifices involved. And God will never be outdone in generosity. We are moving towards the end of this Year of Faith. However, it doesn’t have to end this November. I encourage all parents to use this Year of Faith as a starting point for the continued development of their own faith. We can’t share what we don’t have. That may sound a little daunting. But let us not forget that, as Mother Teresa said, “We don’t have to do great things with love, we only have to do small things with great love”. And parents are so good at doing that.

