

20th Sunday Ordinary C: Catholic Education

Today I would like to share with you my reflections on Catholic education and its importance. We are very fortunate to have a Catholic school in our parish. It is a true blessing.

Those who know we have a Catholic school, raise your hand. How many of you already have your children in St. Francis School? The others, why are you not sending your children to St. Francis school?

The Catholic education of children is very important. You will not get that in public schools. Catholic education is the best. If you need the best education for your children, send them to our Catholic school. Only Catholic education can ensure the secure and holistic future of your children. Education is an investment in the future. Everyone should send their children to our school. The money they invest in education—in the future—they will receive back with interest.

Why do I invite you to send your children with us? There are many reasons. Here are the things that set us apart:

- We have a better education than in a public school.
- God is welcome in our classrooms. Not just welcome—He is at the center of our education and growth as the person God wants us to be.
- There is more discipline.
- Our students get better grades. They are a grade ahead of the students in public school.
- They receive a complete education—education of the mind, body, and spirit.
- Children receive an education in faith.
- Mass once a week, Confessions once a month, monthly Adoration, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and more.
- We have three Religious teaching at our school.
- We have excellent experienced teachers.

Do not let your children decide which school to go to. Parents: you know better. You decide. You decide what is best for them. There is nothing better than a Catholic education. Maybe your children like public school and have many friends there. But, if you don't send them to our Catholic school, how can they like it? Send them with us. They will like St. Francis School, too, and they will have many friends, as well. We have an optional program to take care of children before and after school to support working parents.

You need to make sacrifices for the education of your children. That means you must bring them, pick them up, pay the tuition, and attend the meetings. These are the sacrifices that have to be made to give a good education to your children. Maybe, some of you think you live too far from school. But I tell you that I have some parents who have to drive up to 25 minutes to bring their children. Now, Joanna and Kyle Royse will share with us why they send their children to our Catholic school. They make great sacrifices for their children. After Mass, you can talk to one of the parents who have children in our school.

Some of you come from countries like Mexico or Central America, which are very Catholic. The culture is Catholic, and so it is easy to be Catholic. But here in Bend it is very different. There are few Catholics here—there is no Catholic culture. Therefore, we must make an extra effort and take care to give our children a Catholic environment where they can grow in faith and excel in education. The Catholic school gives us support—an important support in this Catholic education of our children.

That is why it is so important to send our children to a Catholic school. If you send your children to our school, I promise you that they will improve their academic performance and their behavior (conduct). If they don't do these in a year, you can take them back to the public school.

I know some of you have economic problems. Therefore, we have scholarships to support those who cannot afford the full tuition. But Catholic education is not free. We must pay teachers and other services.

It is necessary to make sacrifices for your children. If you are prepared to make sacrifices, we are here prepared to support you. Do not spend your money on drinks, parties, bets, games, and other things that are not important. If you want to enroll your children, you can talk to me. Thank you. God bless your sacrifices for your children.