



"Am I not here who am your mother? Do you need anything else?"

Gaudens

A newsletter of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
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Last month I reviewed the moral principles regarding placing oneself in an unnecessary occasion of sin, applying this teaching to sending our children and young adults to secular schools for their education. In case anyone is not convinced that public education *at all levels* does not present a proximate occasion of sin through the perversion of Faith and Morals (and we are a religion that highly prizes both aspects of Divine Revelation), consider this point: for *every minute* a Catholic child or young adult is subjected to public education, his or her Faith and sense of morality are challenged in the following ways:

- Public education pretends to present instruction in a “religion-neutral” atmosphere. In reality, the curriculum, the text books and the individual philosophy of the educational system as a whole, and of many teachers in particular, is to *neutralize religion* in the minds and hearts of the students under their care. This occurs, not only by forbidding prayer and the invocation of the True God in every manner He expects from His creatures, but the prayerful and philosophical practices of the false religions are not only taught, but are even upheld as something of personal benefit to mankind.

- Secular education is the breeding ground for the sin of *religious indifference*, a notion upheld in our country as one of its founding principles. This sin has us believe that all religions are of equal value and merit, that we all worship the “same God,” and that the notion of a single religion being the only true religion is both fanatical and cultish, and the source of most of society’s evils today. Unless our students are fully convinced of the truth and necessity of their faith,

and defend them when under attack, then they will fall prey to this sin of religious indifference and may end up losing the Faith, get involved in bad marriages, and the like.

- Another subject pounded into the heads of our youth is known as “diversity training.” According to the modern *gospel of diversity*, the backgrounds, opinions and practices of others must all be accepted *without judgment* as to their morality or acceptability in society. Make no mistake, diversity is not the same as teaching the basic principles of Charity. Diversity teaches its students that the opinions of all must be accepted as true expressions of the one who brings them forward. Diversity teaches that each person has a “right” to his or her opinion, even if that opinion is contrary to the Natural, the Divine and Church Laws. Thus our unwary students could think they are practicing Charity by being “diverse,” but they are not. They will cease believing in the absolute truths, choosing to follow false teachers and their companions around them.

- In the facilities of higher education, the Catholic student is subjected to false philosophies of life and other matters that go contrary to those of traditional Catholic teaching. These false teachings are not presented as a means for studying these errors in order to compare them to what is true; rather, they are presented as “alternative explanations” of man’s existence, his role with others, his ethical behavior and the like. Unless they are prepared, our Catholic students will absorb these sophisms under the guise of being truly “educated” in a way they were prevented from learning before. Once the seed of doubt is planted, it is very hard to be rooted out.

From The Sidelines

- All this says nothing of the obvious issues regarding exposure to illicit drugs, to sinful behavior of all types, to excessive activities that take the student away from a spiritual life and a means by which the heart and soul can be daily strengthened against such dangers. So much time today is wasted in “social networking,” while prayer, the Mass and Sacraments, spiritual reading and more all become secondary in their lives — and this is a very dangerous frame of mind. St. Paul reminds us that our battle is against spiritual forces of evil, and our strength against them lies a consistent spiritual life. Activities of any kind that occupy our daily lives to the point our spiritual lives suffer will eventually be the cause of spiritual ruin, unrest of soul and confusion of heart.

Every minute the Catholic student is exposed to these and other like proximate occasions of sin, he or she risks the danger of no longer being able to recognize these errors for what they are simply because the student has been “desensitized” to them. A forty-minute CCD class each Sunday can barely hope to make our Catholic students strong against such dangers, and to repair the damage that is creeping into their hearts and souls (like the worst of viruses) without the parents’ help in the home. Imagine what things would be like without the aid of the CCD class. Perish the thought.

It is the duty of parents to be convinced of the truth of what is presented here, for if our parents do not have a sense of conviction about the proper doctrinal and moral education of their children, then how will they be able to answer their son or daughter

(Over, please)

Dangers In Secular Education

when they feel peer pressure? How do you answer the world's call to get involved in public education because it is "fun," while a lack of involvement in it makes us look "weird" in front of friends? Parents must work with their children who must be take part in public education to help them take courses and be involved with only those friends and activities that will not present for them a doctrinal and moral danger. If they must go on to higher learning, help them to doctrinally and morally prepare for it *well in advance* so that they are not overwhelmed with the dangers they will meet.

It is my opinion that "alternatives" for education and career choices found in online colleges and vocational schools do not present the same proximate dangers to their Faith and Morals as public facilities do, thus making the danger for perversion even more remote. In fact, it seems that the courses offered through "brick and mortar" schools via the computer have the same depth of subject knowledge, if not more, as those offered according to the "traditional" pattern. Higher degrees in nearly every field are being offered online more and more, thus taking away the stigma online education once had that certificates gained online are not accepted in the "real world." The truth is they are, especially since larger colleges and universities of deep respect now offer graduate course online. In my opinion, a good Catholic *must* use online resources for high school and college if true Catholic education is not available because the proximity of occasion of sin is much farther removed.

Be assured of my prayers as you fulfill your responsibilities as a Catholic parent. I suggest you read the papal teachings on these matters to help you make these principles more firm in your mind. Above all, teach your children by example of the importance of a true Catholic education and of preserving their Faith and Christian morals every day of their lives. If you love your Faith, so will they.

* *August 6 & 7* are the First Friday and First Saturday of the month. Special prayers to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be prayed after Mass on those days. There will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour following Mass Friday evening. Confessions will also be heard for the first half hour of the Holy Hour.

* *Catholic Action Study Group: No meeting this month.*

* *CCD Classes:* No classes until September. *Registration* takes place after Mass on August 8 for all classes and all levels.

* *Feast of the Assumption BVM: Sunday, August 15.* Even though this is a Holyday of Obligation, the Masses will follow the Sunday schedule.

* *Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary: Sunday, August 22.* The Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (p. 139). will be recited after both Masses on this day.

* *The Rosary for Peace: Wednesdays,*

Parish Postings

7:00 p.m. All are encouraged to attend as we pray for our families, the needs of our city and for peace in the world. The Rosary is also broadcast on the Internet via our "Mass Cam." You can access this from the parish web site. Let us join together in prayer, whether in the church or at home, to demonstrate our commitment to pray for peace.

* *Mission Sunday* is the third Sunday of each month. The 10:45 a.m. Mass is offered for those who are enrolled in the **Mass Guild of the Missionaries of the Holy Ghost**. The Mass Guild is a wonderful gift opportunity for family and friends and an important means of support for the Sisters. The fee is \$12.00 per year, or a lifetime enrollment for \$30.00.

* Please remember in your prayers the sick of the parish, as well as our continuing effort to work and pray for the Restoration of the true Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and our Holy Faith.

Always remember this important saying: *More good is wrought in this world by prayer than by any other action a man can do.*



THE PROMISE OF THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS

"When you see a night illuminated by an unknown light, know that it is a great sign that God gives you that He is going to punish the world for its crimes by means of war, hunger, and of persecution of the Church, and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I come to ask the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If they listen to my requests, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace. If not, she will scatter her errors through the world, provoking wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be annihilated. But, in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph! My Immaculate Heart will be your sole refuge, and the way that will lead you to God."

Given at the Cova da Iria on July 13, 1917

Immaculate Heart of Mary, triumph and reign in the name of Jesus and for the love of Jesus, world without end. Amen.