

Raising Kids Catholic

- From the Catechism

1653 The fruitfulness of conjugal love extends to the fruits of the moral, spiritual, and supernatural life that parents hand on to their children by education. Parents are the principal and first educators of their children.

1657 It is here that the father of the family, the mother, children, and all members of the family exercise the priesthood of the baptized in a privileged way "by the reception of the sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, and self-denial and active charity."¹⁷⁰ Thus the home is the first school of Christian life and "a school for human enrichment."¹⁷¹ Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous - even repeated - forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life.

1666 The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.

- Parents demonstrate their love and commitment to each other first and foremost so that the kids see it and know it. That lays the foundation for them.
- Foster a loving, nurturing, environment where forgiveness is practiced, but loving accountability is present.
- Go to Mass – Don't miss Mass
- Pray together
 - Say grace at each meal
 - Other prayers
 - Rosary
- Talk about the homily. Discuss what each member took away from it.
- Talk about your faith and your personal relationship with God.
- Encourage the kids to participate in Catholic youth activities.
- Pray for your kids and their faith lives.
- Instill the kids with the thought that God is real and is always there for us even when we fail and that they can't rely solely on themselves.

- Prayer – four components:
 - I love you
 - Thank you
 - I'm sorry
 - Please
- Strive to incorporate all these things from the beginning and adjust the approach and content throughout the children's' lives as they grow up.
- Bert Ghezzi article handout
- Bishop Alvaro prayer card.



Blessed Alvaro del Portillo

Bishop and Prelate of Opus Dei

PRAYER

O God, merciful Father, you granted Blessed Alvaro, Bishop, with the help of the Virgin Mary, the grace of being an exemplary pastor in the service of the Church, and a most faithful son and successor of Saint Josemaría, the founder of Opus Dei. Grant that I too may respond faithfully to the demands of the Christian vocation and turn all the circumstances and events of my life into opportunities to love you and serve the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Deign to grant the canonization of Blessed Alvaro, and through his intercession grant me the favor I request ... (here make your petition). Amen.

*Our Father. Hail Mary.
Glory be to the Father.*