

**PARENTS, KINDLY,**  
**LOOK AFTER YOUR CHILDREN'S**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*Excerpts of a letter of Fr. J.Pimenta s.j. to Parents.*

Dear Parents,

We expect so much from our The Religious Education imparted in our Catholic schools that we have almost forgotten that schools, after all, come in a second place as effective means of Religious Education

True Religious Education begins at home. For the children's Religious Education a Father and a Mother can do more in their home than all the teachers put together in a Catholic School.

In recent years, largely due to the pressures and stresses of our jet age, Parents seem to have delegated – rather surrendered - to the parish and school, far too much of the joy, as well as, of the responsibility, of instructing their children in the Faith.

We do not deny the importance of religious education programs in School and Parish as aids and helps to the religious education of children already initiated at home.

I am, however, afraid that the religious education of their children in the school has, unintentionally, caused parents to neglect sharing their faith and praying with their children. Parents need not be scholars, of catholic doctrine, The only credentials they require to initiate and educate their children in the Faith is a strong faith-life in themselves.

Children should get a head-start on prayer at home, before they are given a formal religion class in School or Parish. This refers to the sharing of a faith-life experience in the bosom of the family among parents and children.

For parents of little children, the key to religious nurturing is not so much the sharing of Christian doctrine with their children but the sharing of their faith-experience. The catholic religion is not just a set of beliefs or doctrines to be accepted on faith, but a life to be lived, or better a “way of life”. This, surely, ‘places on the parents a great responsibility.

Teaching little children to pray is not just teaching them to recite prayers along with their parents. Teaching children to pray is a question of parents and children growing in an attitude that “in Him we live and move and have our being”.

Parents have to be open to God's presence in all aspects of life: in such a way that a sense of happiness and well-being, is experienced, in all the events of life. such as the birth of a child or the death of a loved one, in sickness and health, When

children discover in their Parents a reverent and prayerful attitude towards God, in everything that happens, an attitude of respect for the will of God sips into their hearts and minds..

J Pimenta, s.j.