

PARENTS TEACHING CATHOLICISM

As a youngster, I attended a Primary school run by nuns and a Grammar school run by the Catholic De La Salle Brothers. In both places, Catholicism was taught so well that I remember most of it today.

The problem I've had since that time is that I never had any further education on Catholicism, except for sermons every Sunday at mass. I believe this is true with most Catholics. I did get around it effectively without it costing me money or time away from home, as I shall explain later in this article.

This lack of knowledge relating to our religion can happen to anyone, and where parents are concerned, it can affect any extra education on Catholicism they may wish to give their children.

There are many things about their religion that parents may want to teach their children, especially those whose children do not go to a Catholic school, and how many would be able to educate them so that they would know:

About the mass and enjoy taking part.

The importance of the Sacraments.

How to pray, and why is it important?

The Bible and how God communicated with us.

What Holy Days of Obligation are?

What the Stations of the Cross are?

What the Rosary is and how to say it?

These and other areas of Catholicism are all important, but how many Catholic parents can teach them to their children effectively?

In today's world, parents are bombarded by social media to get involved in all sorts of inviting activities. This tends to have them relying on the school to provide religious education to their children. An intriguing question is would they be able to continue such education themselves if they wanted to?

A diocese usually provides weekend courses on Catholicism for lay Catholics, which are at set times and places and, in some cases, must be paid for by attendees. Some parents do use these, but many use the weekend to enjoy pastimes such as running and walking and taking their children to sporting events, all at set times and places. This results in the set times and places for religious courses and having to pay to attend, stopping many people from using them. What can they do?

I found that the Internet was a possible answer to this situation. It's a great place to find any information, and this includes a vast amount of information relating to many topics on Catholicism. Some must be paid

for, but lots of it is free of charge. All you need to do is access the Internet and request the required information. You can even ask for children's guides.

Using the Internet makes it easy for parents not to worry about any expenses and not have any time or travelling concerns.

It means that parents who want their children and themselves to know more about the many **wonders of Catholicism** can do so without any worries. It is easy to access just the topic you need, making it easy to organise any children's religious education.

When I was involved as a Leader in the service called Celebrations of the Word and Communion, which is used when no ordained priest is available, I came across a word I'd never seen before. It was SOLEMNITY. I had an idea of what it was, but to be sure, I looked on the Internet and typed in that word. My screen quickly became full of the information I would ever need.

Don't let your children's education on Catholicism suffer. If you don't keep them informed, they could eventually become lapsed Catholics. The one great thing you'll find is that when all the family is involved in gaining knowledge about Catholicism, the whole family benefits.