

POTENTIAL TRAINING TOPICS

Part 2 – Opening Topics

Good and Evil – Have your children been taught about the evils of Communism and the genocides of the past? Have they been taught the heresy that “All people are basically good”? Are any of God’s earthly creatures ‘evil’? Video: Jesse Romero, *Devils in the City of Angels* (10 min) youtu.be/Twff4Sy9ypM .

Goal: Become wise – learn to discern between good and evil.

Lesson: Silence in the face of evil is evil itself; silence is not an option.

Heaven and Hell -- Do you believe there are angels? Do you believe there are demons? Satan? Video: St. Faustina’s, *Visions of the Afterlife* (23 min). youtu.be/MYUZRfGIW8M

Creation vs. Evolution – Can you explain the Darwinian argument for godless creation? Can you explain the Intelligent Design argument? Video clip from Hoover Institute, Peter Robinson’s interview, *By Design: Behe, Lennox and Meyer on the Evidence for a Creator* (Use clip from 1:08:24 to 1:24:29) youtu.be/rXexaVsvhCM

Pornography and Cell Phones – Are you aware that your children may be viewing pornography? Who owns your children’s screen devices? Do you have control over them?

Depression, Mental Illness and Suicide – What do you think is the cause of the surge in mental illness among today’s children?

Sacraments – Current surveys reveal that only 33 % of church going Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ – His body, blood, soul and divinity – in the Communion host. Do you struggle with this? What do your children believe?

The Great Commission – How many of your children are prepared to implement this fundamental teaching of the Church? How many of them can define it?

Building Strong Children – How can you best prepare your children for the chaos, noise, and hardship of the world they have been born into? What have other parents done to prepare their children? Videos of success stories.

Bible – Is there a Bible in your home that the children can access?

Course Content and Focus

- **Know God**
- **Love God**
- **Serve God**

Knowing God through Scriptural revelation (Bible study), Natural Revelation (All of Creation surrounding us), and Sacred Tradition.

Loving God through his word: “If you love me, keep my commandments.” The Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31)

Serving God through understanding of his dictates in Sacred Scripture. (E.g., Matthew 25:31-46; Matthew 28:19,20; James 2:14-26; Matthew 7:21, and many others...)

Including

There needs to be an understanding of Spirit, spiritual life, etc. and an understanding of the source of our guidance, especially, the Holy Bible. Good & evil, the idea of sin, 7 deadly sins, 7 virtues.

Faith and Reason –Address and discuss the scientific discoveries that support religion and Christian spirituality, regarding God, spirit, Creation, the vast cosmos, intelligent design vs. evolution, etc...

Awareness

First there must be an understanding of where we are, as families and as a society. How our civilization has crumbled and how organized religion – or lack of it – has caused and permitted it. How contraception and “the pill”, following the ‘50s led to the so-called sexual ‘revolution’ and then to massive abortion which created our major societal divide.)

Then, how new technology – the Internet – has poisoned the minds and souls of our children, and what we need to do about it.

Finally, how our church leadership has failed us. The corruption, emasculation and infantilization of God’s earthly church, its leadership and its hierarchy. How this has impacted the laity’s ability to properly learn, follow and proclaim the faith, especially in the home.

Childrens’ Needs – Notes

Fathers! Your sons have questions they are afraid to ask. They have questions that are not even fully formed in their minds yet.

Different kinds of questions:

- Existential –e.g., Who am I, why am I here?
- Psychological – Why am I lonely?
- Scientific – How did everything get created?
- Theological – How did everything get created?
- Religious – Why should I pray? Who is God? Jesus? Holy Sprit?

Some examples:

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- What is this body of mine?
- Why do people die?
- What would I do if I am orphaned? If my parents divorce?
- Why do my parents fight all the time?
- Am I adopted?
- Why are there girls and boys?
- How can a girl become a boy?
- My friend showed me porn on his phone; why did it seem so creepy?
- Why do I have to go to church?
- Why do my Protestant friends not believe in the Sacraments?
- How can a Catholic priest turn a piece of bread into Jesus' body?
- Why can't an Episcopal priest turn bread into Jesus body?
- Is there life after you die?
- What is abortion?
- Do aborted babies go to heaven? Why? How?
- Are demons real?
- Is the Devil real?
- What's the difference between the Devil and Satan?
- Who is "God"? Where did he come from? How was he created?
- Are angels real? Do I have a guardian angel?
- Where did the Bible come from?
- Why doesn't anybody like me?
- Why are all my friends telling me I'm goofy, a jerk and crazy about this faith thing? How do I answer them? Should I just keep quiet?

... and many more questions, many of which have been written up in books for doubting Thomases and just plain curious people...

Some additional notes

Satan & Evil

Demonic possession

Sin leads only to misery and corruption

Only 33% believe in transubstantiation

Fathers:

- Understand and do not underrate your own important role
- Desire to learn and guide your own children
- Prepare yourselves

Other thoughts

Our kids are lost: mental health problems, drugs, suicide, isolation, poor social skills, unable to handle stress and reality, lacking moral strength, poor self-image.

We need to give fathers and their sons role-examples of kids and men who have moral strength. Positive futures. Stories of Christian men who did good things and who were examples of masculine strength.

Many fathers are missing for other kids: due to prison, death, divorce, homelessness, mental health, drugs, and general family dysfunction...

Cultural Marxism and our society in general has become biased against two-parent families and the need for resident fathers.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FAITH

First, every participant should receive a Bible and a Catechism

Topics

God is Spirit

There are angels and demons (Jesse Romero chapter on “perfect possession.”

Creation – but let us worship the Creator, the author of the true the good and the beautiful

Scripture – A guide to life; Understanding of faith, hope and love.

Sacred Tradition – Passed from the Apostles. (Last chapter of John’s Gospel). The Sacraments

Prayer – Yes, necessary, but not sufficient for a holy, Christian life

The Great Commandment; The Great Commission

Other Topics

The blessed ‘contagion’ of living by faith. Children get 66-75% from fathers; only 2% from mothers.

Current Diocesan and other related and useful efforts. Such as “Man Up,” TMIY (This Man is You), and several others...

Approaching your son’s needs

Age-related

Don’t lecture

Listen, listen, listen

(A Prayer for Parents – See booklet, p.29)

Stories are essential for all ages

The Socratic Method for guiding through difficult, new material

Using a reward system? (Be careful of material rewards.)

Possible Training Structures

Introductory Presentations – Basically, Come and see what this is all about where a presentation is given to interested parents and their older children. Initial sign-ups.

Website – Where material is available to fathers and prospective participants. A very preliminary website is now available: <https://JosephsWorkshop.org>, where some materials are available for download and where interested people may post questions.

One-on-one Meetings with Fathers – This assumes availability of trained volunteers who can help fathers set their own best course.

In-Person Classes for Fathers – Basic training and preparation sessions for interested fathers.

Advanced Classes for Fathers and/or Sons – Age-appropriate material.

Group Discussion Sessions – For fathers who are already involved and enrolled.

Personal Study Aids – Written references and outlines; Recommended videos and podcasts – tailored to the specific needs of each family.

Other ... ?

Caveat Venditor

The religious education effort is complex for many reasons. Too often I have seen poorly prepared enthusiasts jump into a new effort without any sense or measure of the long term effectiveness.

Many may disagree, but I have always believed that if a job is worth doing one should have an attainable measure of success. That is generally difficult for the theologically trained. So unfortunately, when it is, sadly, too late to save souls, those trained in mathematical statistics who publish their surveys will politely inform us how we failed.