



## Leading from the Front

A questionnaire for mum and dad to talk through in the Year of Faith

**1. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that those who believe in him may not perish, but have life everlasting. (John: 3 16-17)**

- Do I believe that God exists?
- Does the beauty of nature give me a glimpse into the greatness of God?
- Do I know that he cares about me, my family, my concerns, my worries, my needs?
- Do I believe that He is truly present in the tabernacle?

**2. 'May you seek Christ, may you find Christ, may you love Christ.' (St Josemaria Escriva')**

- Do I give God my attention?
- Do I show him my gratitude?
- Does my happiness depend on earthly gain or do I have higher goals in life?

**3. The more we know about God the more we love him. How do my spouse and I look for spiritual nourishment?**

- Read the gospel daily
- Look for a spiritual guide/mentor
- Attend talks or evenings of recollection....whatever works for my timetable.

#### 4. We cannot pass on to our children what we do not have ourselves!

○ Do I carry out my duty to teach my children to seek the truth?

○ Do I do my daily duty in fostering my children's life of faith?

*"By praying with their children, by reading the word of God with them and by introducing them deeply through Christian initiation into the Body of Christ – both the Eucharistic and Ecclesial body, parents become fully parents."* (Blessed John Paul II. *Familiaris Consortio*)

One young dad admitted, *"It was when I started to lead the prayers each night with my children that our home atmosphere changed"*.

○ How do I coach my children in 'the art of prayer'? Children must see you make time for prayer each day.

○ Do my spouse and I pray together? Are we optimistic in front of life's challenges.... living by faith? *"There is nothing better in this world than that husband and wife is of one mind."* (Homer)

○ Do my children see that I pray whether I feel like it or not?

○ Do my children see that I am a soul of prayer in good times and bad?

○ Do we gently develop the custom of the family rosary... there are many different approaches e.g. ask younger children to stay at least a decade before going to bed.

The stakes are high: St Josemaria wrote, *"Unless children become souls of prayer you have wasted your time."*

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#### The Challenge

1. Be a person who knows God. If you do not know God yet, then decide today that you are going to go and do whatever it takes to get to know Him.
2. Be a soul of prayer. Commit yourself to spending at least 5 minutes a day with God in prayer for the rest of your life, beginning today.
3. Be a person who listens more than they talk. This begins with your relationship with God and includes your spouse and children.
4. Discuss these questions with your spouse, your tutor or a close friend and set some goals to work on in your own spiritual life and your family.