

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

October 2021

Our Lady of the Snows Church

Regina Moreno, Pastoral Associate



Thoughtful Moments

"No" is a loving response

Parents know that to build responsible adults, we have to wean children from an expectation of instant gratification. Youngsters must learn to separate wants from needs. They don't always want what is good for them. When we say "no," we empower them to practice virtues of self-control, prudence, and moderation.

Always pray

Remind children that even when they feel alone, God is there. Explain that He never will leave them and always hears when they talk to Him. Teaching your children to pray whenever they are frustrated, angry, and nervous, or even when they are happy, helps them remember that they have a direct line to Jesus. He promised to be with us always, even to the end of time.

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day."

St. Gianna Molla



Raise children who care

Studies show that children have the capacity to be empathetic and compassionate from a young age, but to become caring, ethical people, they need adult guidance to develop the necessary virtues. Teaching children to care about others is a powerful step toward helping them to live Jesus' commandment to "love one another."

Show that it matters. A popular reaction to others' misfortune is to laugh or find it funny. Don't indulge. Instead, point out the reaction of the person involved. For example, "That girl who got splashed when the car hit the puddle is not laughing. Look at her face. She looks sad and uncomfortable."



Demonstrate that you care. Let children catch you in the act of kindness by putting yourself out to help an elderly neighbor with yardwork, giving a sympathetic ear to a troubled friend, or avoiding uttering an unkind word.

Don't respond to rudeness. Explain that there are many reasons why someone could be rude, "Wow, that cashier must have had a really bad day to talk in such a mean voice to us at the supermarket. What do you think?" This teaches your child that when someone is nasty to you, you don't have to be mean in response.

Acknowledge kindness. Show that you notice when your child does something kind. Acknowledge and praise the effort.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics teach children filial piety?

Filial piety is reverence and respect children show their parents (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2215). This helps children respond to the Fourth Commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the



land the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

Catholics also expect children to respect their brothers and sisters as a contribution to harmony and holiness in family life. In turn, parents build in children the foundation for a life of faith.