



Message from Fr. Leandro "Lines" Dela Cruz

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Old Testament, specifically the Ten Commandments, told children to obey and reverence their parents. Obedience and respect for parents are very desirable things in children. Respect for the elders allows the child to bask in innocence and learn the necessities in life. The family is the most basic institution in society. It is through the family that children learn and are formed into who they would become in the future.

In the New Testament, Jesus focused on the adults' responsibility to the children. Since the formation of children is intrinsically connected with the adults in their lives, Jesus said a great deal about the obligation of elders to children. The Christian must be at the service even to the least, the most vulnerable and defenseless, and children are foremost among these.

The rights of children are distressingly fragile. They are dependent upon adults to a tremendous degree. In the modern world, the law attempts to define and protect the rights of children. It attempts to assure them of the care and protection they need and to prevent more gross forms of abuse. Yet, unfortunately, there are many attempts in which the rights of the child have been invaded.

Parenting carries with it satisfying rewards. In the child, something of the parents lives on. Parents long to give the child all they would have wanted for themselves. They would like to see the child be all they would have wanted to be themselves. They would like to spare the child the mistakes they have made and the sufferings they have experienced.

THE CHILD – A PERSON: Children give us joy, but children are not toys, they are created to give parents a warm sense of nurturing, to be formed and helped develop into a wonderful person. Even a small child is a human being, over whom no other human being, even parents, can claim complete control. In the end, the parents have the responsibility, not of creating the child after their own image and likeness, but of allowing the child to be the best of who he or she can become.

Parenting, like all human tasks, is fraught with possibilities of error. The very best parents will leave their children with problems as well as give them much that is precious. Yet children, like all human beings, have an amazing toughness and ability to survive and cope with the harsh realities of life. Eventually, children have to make choices and decisions and, terrible to imagine, mistakes for themselves. It would be best for us adults to show them how we learn from our own mistakes.

Jesus asks parents not to dominate, but to serve. Serving does not mean catering to every whim or being subservient. But it does mean having a deep reverence for the person served, a real concern for that person's needs.

We continue to pray for the health and safety of our children as they are now back in school. Our Parish Religious Education will soon start also after the blessing of all catechists this Sunday. All children of our parish grades 1-8 must be registered in our Religious Education program. We owe our children to be educated with our faith, beliefs, and religious practices correctly. We thank our dedicated catechists who lovingly offer their time and talent to share our faith to our children.

Allow your children to come to love and appreciate the Mass, the Eucharist. Set a good example to them by bringing yourself and these young ones to Mass every Sunday. The 9 AM Mass is dedicated to our youngest members in the church. These little angels will surely remember wonderful memoirs at the Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW). Speak to them about God, about how important God is in our lives. Talk to them about God's real presence in the Eucharist. That the bread and the wine are not symbols, but that during the Consecration they

become the real body and blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Jesus is really present with us during the Mass. His presence makes the Mass sacred and us closer to Him.

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) formation/process is well underway. Sessions will begin next weekend. We have an excellent team, fully competent and dedicated, who give instructions, guidance and form our catechumens. Those who go through the RCIA process are (1) adults who are not baptized and wanted to be baptized; (2) Baptized but not in the Catholic church and they wanted to become Catholics; and (3) Baptized Catholics, 18 years and older, who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the RCIA that they may perceive and may soon receive the Sacraments they are being prepared for.

God Loves You.

Listen to the Pope deliver his message regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWf3Ji11EaU>