Folks, I’m excited. Last year’s parenting workshops were a hit, and I’m confident this year’s will be an even bigger one. We have 3 LEADERS in parenting nationally within the church joining us to speak. I’d like to tell you a little bit about each of them, and share some quotes from a recent interview with one of the presenters with you.

Our first speaker will be author and speaker Katie Warner, who has written several books for parents and children. In fact, I’ve seen her books being sold in our diocese at Heavenly Helpers in El Campo. We have several in our home, and they are a joy to read. One of them is actually based off of a mutual friend we have in common: Father Ben Goes to Mass. Father Ben was our parish priest in Orlando, where my wife and I first met Katie, and the book takes children through a day in the life of Father Ben at his parish. But Katie doesn’t just write for children, she address parents as well, in such titles as A Parent Who Prays and A Spouse Who Prays. Katie will be speaking about “Practical Ideas for Family Faith,” giving us strategies we can implement right away in our homes to develop a family spirituality. You can find all of her resources at katiewarner.com.

I hope you will join us for her talk, and the others, and recordings will be made available for those who register and cannot attend live. Each session will also include time for Q&A with our presenters. Registration is just $25 for all 3 sessions, or $10 for one, and can be completed at www.victoriadiocese.org/parents.

Our next speakers are no stranger to the diocese: Mike & Alicia Hernon, founders of The Messy Family Project. They came to present at a KJZT event in fall 2019, and were a hit among attendees. They will be speaking on a true area of expertise for them: discipline and developing a plan that works. In fact, you can download a free resource to help you start this plan at their website messyfamilyproject.org. Enter your name and email for the “Messy Family Guide to Discipline” at no cost to you.
Mike & Alicia also host a very popular podcast that you can find at their website, and offer many other resources related to marriage and family life. Don’t be a stranger to them! They’d love to welcome you into their “Messy Family” community.

And lastly, our closing act, will be the one and only Dr. Ray Guarendi. I’ve been following him for years and am such a fan of his work, between his EWTN TV and radio shows, public speaking, and several books, he has a plethora of resources to make you a better parent, and follower of Christ.

One of his most popular books is *Jesus, The Master Psychologist* and one of his most popular for parents is “Raising Upright Kids in an Upside-Down World.” His advice is practical, down-to-earth, and straightforward. As a clinical psychologist of over 40 years, and father of ten adopted children, he knows what he’s talking about! Find all of his resources, including talks, TV shows, radio, books and more at [dr.ray.com](http://dr.ray.com).

Lastly, I’d like to share with you a couple of quotes from Katie in a recent interview we had on the DOV Family Podcast. Make sure to subscribe to the podcast if you haven’t already, as we will have interviews with Dr. Ray and the Hernons in the weeks leading up to the workshops. You can subscribe via the [Facebook Page](http://facebook.com), [YouTube Channel](http://youtube.com), and [podcast apps](http://podcast.com).

In our interview, I asked Katie, what does it mean to be an amazing parent, and how can everyone answer this call? Her response was spot-on: “Truly good parenting is synonymous with Christ-like parenting. So, how can we as moms and dads be the face of Christ to our kids? In many ways, our kids form opinions about God based on their relationship with their parents. So are we mirroring Jesus to our kids by our words and actions? In our roles as mothers and fathers, and hopefully as saints in the making ourselves? Also, when you said amazing, the word amazing always makes me think of the Roman centurion in Matthew’s Gospel. So, he said the words that we’re all so familiar with because we say them as Mass every Sunday, ‘Lord I am not worthy to have you under my roof.’ But then comes Jesus’ unforgettable response. So in Matthew 8:10, it says ‘Jesus was amazed.’ Can you imagine what it’d be like to amaze Jesus?”

May these workshops offer us all the opportunity to amaze Jesus, our spouses, and our children, with how we answer the call and invitation to be “AMAZING” parents. God Bless!

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**Weekend for married couples Oct 8-10**
Register at [victoriadiocese.org/choosingtolove](http://victoriadiocese.org/choosingtolove).

**Jesus Approaches Retreat for Women Oct. 1-3. Limited spots remain!**
Register at [this link](http://thislink).

**Weekend retreat for parents who have lost children**

**All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, all in union with St. Joseph. Amen.**