

And you will be surprised to see how much time you will then have to enjoy your family life and to look after each other. You will be surprised to see how fast the level of your conversations will go up, to see how docile your children will become to your authority. Family prayer, morning and night, family rosary, will take back their place of honor. Soon you will feel how much this new beginning of a natural life will pacify each and every one, will solder them to each other.

The artificiality of a life which goes on in front of the television kills the personality of everyone in the family, and the result is mediocrity, laziness, slavery to fashion, and always impurity in one way or another. Catholic parents, you must not be accomplices of such an undertaking of dehumanization and of dechristianization.

#### **DO NOT RENOUNCE EDUCATING YOUR CHILDREN.**

"To educate your children," wrote Rev. Fr. De Chivre, "is to secure them with the means of attaining the full exercise of their spiritual lives as baptized Catholics, of making the most of their natural lives, and of facilitating their future lives." Thus one can understand the importance of the language in conversations, in readings, in warnings, in scolding's, in encouragements and in corrections coming from the parents. The education of a child's interior life is the only things that will arm him against the false appearances of the world. Helping him become accustomed to the truth, attracted to what is simple, energetic in the faithful accomplishment of his duties, proud in upholding moral values, aware of the presence of God, of an interior voice ... teaching him to bear the arms of a Catholic who is baptized, who is confirmed ... all these things galvanize the undecided frailty of teenagers and forge their characters.

And their duty belongs primarily to parents: the heart of a father and the heart of a mother, constantly burning with flames which are conducive to the awakening of the soul, the conscience, the reason, the heart, and the sensitivity of children.

"The home is a church in which dwells the True Presence". Not just anybody may come in; not just anything may be said, no unfitting or vulgar tunes may be sung. The home is like a tabernacle; one enters to be grasped by a need for respect. To be stolen over by a certain depth, to be sheltered from intellectual and moral degradation. Don't give up! The more you ask of a youth, the happier you will make him; for you are giving him a true moral, intellectual and spiritual value.

At the origin of all great saints, there were almost always saintly mothers and fathers. Look at St. Pius X, St. John Bosco, Archbishop Lefebvre...Prayer, work, sacrifice, poverty...these were the conditions in which they lived...walking in the traces of the model which we all must follow: the Holy Family at Nazareth. If Our Lord felt it necessary to spend 30 years of His life hidden, in humble and laborious circumstances, it was to teach us what our Christian homes must be like. Let us live up to His expectations, and glorify Him by putting all of our zealous energies to work, in order to live in imitation of the Holy Family.



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# **TELEVISION**



**The television is the stranger  
who has the place of honor in the home,  
the place that belongs to God,  
the place that belongs to the parents.**

**...get rid of the television...  
throw it into the garbage...that is where it belongs...**

## Television

by the Dominican Teaching Sisters, Idaho

This talk given by the Sisters give emphasis to the influence of television and how to best combat its effect on children as well as young adults.

### TELEVISION: Deadly poison for their soul

Often one television program is enough to push a youth into mortal sin. By letting your children sit in front of the television, you run the nearly certain risks of killing the supernatural life in their souls. There is no such thing as a harmless television program. Impurity, ugliness and vulgarity strike their eyes, their senses, their imagination and soil their souls. It cannot be avoided.

None of you would dream of risking your children's lives, for instance, by setting them in the middle of the highway at night, all ready to be run over. Setting them in front of the television is worse yet. (And the same danger is true of listening to the radio, rock music and modern music.) You endanger the supernatural life of your children which is infinitely more precious than their bodily life. What a responsibility before God!

### TELEVISION: Deadly poison for their mind

Watching television requires no intellectual effort whatsoever. In front of a television people are passive, that is, they receive what is presented without making any effort to think. They are comfortably and lazily seated on the sofa, with a little snack on the TV table, why not? And like this, everything is at hand, and they swallow and swallow all that the television pours out, without their mind's having the time, or even the possibility, to react. The pictures strike the imagination and leave their trace on the mind, where they destroy any personal life, any personal thought or reaction. A television creates millions of people who do not think, who are no longer themselves. They are all alike, all blinded by the illusion that they are knowledgeable. And thus, news replaces culture; public opinion dispenses people from thinking for themselves and replaces God's judgment; even the stupidity of television shows does not awaken the apathy, the listlessness of their brains under anesthesia.

But personal reflection is so important. It is necessary to our supernatural life. We shall not be saved automatically. We cannot be saved without conquering our liberty of judgment and of choice, without making all our decisions in favor of God, whatever be the obstacles and traps which come from the world, the devil, or our own lusts. Television prevents us from attaining this interior liberty of judgment, without which we can never truly be human persons.

### TELEVISION: Deadly poison for their studies

Ask an intellectual effort of children who watch television...you will obtain no response. These children have, firstly, an inability to concentrate, and inability to be attentive, which comes directly from television. They are unstable, superficial, incapable of maintaining an intellectual effort, and intellectual reasoning. In

addition, they have lost their liking for this sort of work - - it is so arduous! With television, we just turn it on and...the whole world is before our eyes! These television watchers are full of illusion thinking they know so much.

What is more, their interests become as superficial as the programs they watch. This is why some children, even some only ten or twelve years old, are so worried about how they look; this is why they wear make-up etc. Certain twelve-year-olds look like sixteen-year-olds. It is a shame that they lose the innocence and the simplicity of their age.

And when this artificial world of television, this world of sin, of ugliness and of stupidity has captured their intelligences and their hearts, irreparable harm has been done. Their intelligences and their hearts remain untouched by the language of the Faith and of education. And all your efforts, all our efforts are made sterile.

Do not think that attending Sunday Mass is enough to save your children. But refer everything to this Mass, to Jesus Christ and to His love. If you do not, there is a lie in your life. It has always been necessary for Christians to cut themselves off from the world: "You are in the world, but you are no longer of the world," Jesus tells us. This means that your behavior must be different from the world's.

It would be too long to quote St. Paul, but reread his Epistles. In all of them he enjoins his faithful to abandon their pagan customs and to put on the Christian way of living. And he goes into detail. He does not tell them, "It is good enough if you go to Mass on Sunday and say your morning and night prayers." He tells them all to overturn their idols; this is the other side of adhering to God. And all the missionaries after him always overturned the idols in order to install a Christian city.

Today's idols are o longer Zeus or Venus. Today's idols are television, singers, sports stars, rock music, movies, ... We are to be firm towards these idols as the first Christians were toward their false gods. "No alliance is possible between the light and the darkness." None.

### TELEVISION: Deadly poison for your family life

Your home must be sanctuaries where God is honored, loved, served, where the parents watch vigilantly over the education of their children.

What is television doing in the middle? It is breaking family life. It is keeping the father or the mother from talking, rectifying, advising, encouraging. The television is the stranger who has the place of honor in the home, the place that belongs to God, the place that belongs to the parents.

And there is no more family life, no more home where the flame is burning, from where it lights and warms all those who come near. You have simply people next to each other, separated, in fact, instead of being united; for the bond of unity is lacking, it is ruptured by the presence of television, which dictates its programs, its opinions, its lies. Well? What is the conclusion? It is easy. Get rid of the television. Throw it into the garbage. That is where it belongs. Do it this evening. Do not wait until tomorrow; your courage might fail. Tonight while your children are sleeping, without asking their opinion, of course!