



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Faith, Family, and Social Issues
Part IV: Youth Evangelization



Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican and has a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our token cradle Catholic on the team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions, because who knows what would happen if I asked answers. To answer my questions and correct my pronunciation is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

We are also joined today with special guest panelists, which includes Kedon, also known as Kid Catholic, and his mom, Cheryl.

Kedon produces the Kid Catholic channel on YouTube. The Kid Catholic channel presents family friendly, apologetic videos concerning our Catholic faith. In addition to his evangelizing on the Internet, Kedon, who is now 14, also speaks at schools and churches.

Kedon, Cheryl, welcome to our panel.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise, as well as their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

Dear Lord, we especially pray that Your healing hand rest upon Ben as this child battles cancer. We pray You will guide the hearts and hands of his care givers and that Your hand of comfort shall also rest upon all those who love and care for him.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can also listen to Armor of Faith Radio on demand and on the go using your smartphone. In addition to wcatradio.com/armoroffaith, we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We also have a special plea. Armor of Faith Radio is produced by Halo Haven Ministries, which is a ministry with a lot of heart, but not a large advertising budget. While we could ask for your financial support through which we could pay for an advertising campaign that will help us spread the good news of the Gospel and the blessings of our faith, we thought for a moment and decided to ask for your help in a more direct way. Instead of asking you to send us \$20.00, \$25.00, or \$50.00 to help finance an advertising campaign, we thought we would ask you to participate in that campaign directly by asking you to share Armor of Faith Radio with family members and friends.

All you need to do is share a link to the show, or a favorite episode, and drop it into an email or share it through social media. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so please help us to spread the good news of our faith in Jesus Christ. You may never know, that simple action of evangelization, through sharing a link, may open the heart of another. It is an opportunity to share the blessings of faith, and as we mentioned during our series on “Put on the Armor of Prayer,” a blessing is an invocation of God's power and care. What greater gift might we share with one another?

Faith Event Announcements:

We would like to recognize and express our thanks to all those who joined in the 40 Days for Life campaign, whether you joined in prayer at the sidewalk or from home, your prayers were heard by the Lord. We watched, with joy, the reports of babies saved through your prayers and the efforts of the sidewalk counselors who endeavor to speak with hearts of love with those who are in turmoil and considering the permanent solution of abortion to what are often temporary problems.

The initial reporting this year is that there were 454 confirmed reports of babies saved at the sidewalk. Hopefully, there were more simply as a result of those who went to abortion clinics, but observed those standing in prayer for them and their children, and their hearts were touched in some way.

Unfortunately, the number of children lost to abortion remains so much greater than the number of children saved. Our goal must be that no life is lost to abortion. The prayer campaign must continue. If you would like to learn more about this important effort to pray to save lives of the unborn, we invite you to visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>. If you would like to learn more about promoting a culture of life, we also invite you to listen to our series on the Culture of Life, which you can listen to on-demand, just look for episodes 89 through 97.

As we engage in any of the number of opportunities to promote life, we also want to encourage our listeners to remember to what we are called in 1 Peter 3:9, *“Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing;”* and as I mentioned just a moment ago, we must remember that a blessing is an invocation of God's power and care.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Today we will talk about the vestments that deacons wear. As we discussed before, priests have two styles of clothing; one for spiritual/ceremonial events and one for everyday events. Deacons, are only required to have special clothing for spiritual events.

For information on this subject, I went to an expert. Fr. Edward McNamara wrote a wonderful article on deacon vestments so I will quote him.

The proper vestment for a deacon at Mass is an alb (with an amice if required), cincture, stole worn in the diaconal manner, and dalmatic. The stole and dalmatic should be of the corresponding liturgical color. (McNamara)

During the last two weeks, we talked about priestly vestments. If you recall, the alb means white and thus the vestment is a white robe that is ankle length. The cincture acts as a belt to keep the alb close to the deacon or priest. This white garment is to remind the priest or deacon of his purity to God.

The stole is an article of vestment that is bestowed upon the deacon at ordination. It is a strip of fabric that is several inches wide. It is worn across the body from the left shoulder to the right side of his waist. This is called the diaconal manner. He wears this item for Mass, sacraments, and Communion services.

I am going to let Fr. McNamara explain the dalmatic.

This vestment is a knee-length, sleeved garment. It was originally developed in Dalmatia, modern-day Croatia, and was imported into Rome during the second century. At first the dalmatic, which was originally longer, reaching the heels, and more ample than today, was not well received, being seen as somewhat effeminate. Later, however, it

became popular among Roman senators and imperial officials as a substitute for the toga and was even used as the proper garb for the consecration of the emperor.

From this it became a habit proper to the pope and to bishops. Finally it was introduced as a vestment for the deacons of Rome by Pope Sylvester I in the fourth century and gradually became their proper vestment. For a time, especially during the ninth to 14th centuries, bishops and even priests would sometimes wear the dalmatic under the chasuble. This use persists today, but only for bishops, who may vest a light dalmatic underneath the chasuble in solemn celebrations, especially ordinations.

With respect to its habitual use, we may say that the dalmatic is to the deacon what the chasuble is to the priest. Therefore, in most cases the deacon may use the dalmatic only when the priest would use the chasuble. (McNamara)

Just as a priest's vestments are blessed before wearing for Mass or other ceremonial events, the deacon's vestments are also blessed. This is a requirement by the Church. This means that since they are blessed, they are sacramentals.

If you would like to learn more about the liturgical vestments of deacons worn during the Mass, we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 119.

Discussion:

As we concluded our last episode, I reminded everyone of one of my mantras, that it is not a matter of whether the politics of the right or left are right or wrong, it is a matter of whether we understand what God asks of us. We must recognize that there is a spiritual battle which has raged over the generations, and indeed is in progress this very moment, which is for our hearts, minds, and souls; and for those of our children and the generations to come.

Growing up is difficult enough as we attempt to navigate the means by which we learn and endeavor to connect the building blocks of knowledge, emotion, desire, and behavior; but when we allow the innocence of our children to be taken at younger and younger ages, then, we must expect this battle will become ever more difficult and challenging for each generation as they become responsible for the ones which follow.

I also reminded everyone that Sister Lucia, the visionary of Fatima, wrote in a letter to Cardinal Carlo Caffarra of Bologna, that, “[T]he final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family. Don’t be afraid, because anyone who operates for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be contended and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue.” At the conclusion of her letter, Sister Lucia wrote, “however, Our Lady has already crushed its head.”

While it may console us that we already know the outcome of the battle; “Our Lady has already crushed its head,” we must still have a concern. The concern is that we do not become a casualty before the victory.

When I was in the military, there was a mantra, “Let no man’s soul cry out had I the proper training.” I believe this applies equally in the spiritual battle for our souls. If we know our faith, we enable our ability to engage the battle and defend our souls. If we do not know our faith, we leave ourselves vulnerable to the one who would take it from us. When we lose our faith or we allow it to become disordered, our relationships suffer; not only our relationships with one another, but most importantly, our relationship with God.

We have neither the power or strength to fight this battle for our souls on our own, but, if we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, if we ask for God's power and care, God will not abandon us and we will be there on the day Our Blessed Mother, with the power of God, crushes its head.

While the news of the world which surrounds us may sound bleak, there is hope and I bring evidence of that today in the form of Kid Catholic. Kedon, also known as Kid Catholic, was one of the inspirational people I met at the Midwest Catholic Family Conference conducted during this last August in Wichita, Kansas. As I browsed his YouTube videos, I was struck with the thought that I wish I knew at his age what Kedon already shares, as a 14 year old, through his videos and speeches.

One of the objectives of this series concerning faith, family, and social issues is to help our listeners, especially parents, to find resources which they may incorporate into the faith formation of the family. After sampling some of the videos on the Kid Catholic YouTube Channel, I believe Kid Catholic is a resource families might want to explore as a means to learn and discuss the blessings of our faith in Jesus.

(Question 1: I am always encouraged when I observe our youth engaged in ministry, and evangelization is a ministry. What was your inspiration which led you to develop the Kid Catholic Channel on YouTube as a means of evangelizing the good news of the Gospel and faith in God?)

(Question 2: I know that when I was growing up, there were heavy pressures to keep any discussion of religion private. As you considered the thought of producing a Catholic Channel, who did you talk with as you developed this concept and what was their response?)

(Question 3: Just from my experience with doing a weekly radio show, it is rather difficult to do all things alone. I am very blessed to have the assistance of the Armor of Faith Radio team. What assistance do your family or friends provide as you produce your videos?)

(Question 4: When we consider the expanse of scripture and all the blessings which God offers through living the fullness of our Catholic faith, we have a lot of content we can share with others and help them learn about what God asks of us. What inspires you to identify the subjects you talk about in your videos and speeches to schools and parishes?)

(Question 5: One of our main concerns as we develop content for Armor of Faith Radio is to communicate the true meaning of the Gospel as discerned by the Church through the Holy Spirit and as taught by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. There is a lot out there from which to learn. **What resources do you use from which to develop the topics you discuss?)**

- Scripture
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Church Documents and encyclicals of the Popes
- Writings of the Popes and those declared Doctors of the Church
- Writings of the Saints
- History (we must be careful here as there is a lot of misinformation and disinformation, depending on the source)

One goal of our show is to remind parents of their responsibility to teach their children. As I opened episode 9, entitled, “Parents, Teach Your Children.” I stated:

“God made us male and female. He gave us the power of procreation. Our children are both our blessing and our responsibility. As we raise them, we set in motion lives which shall influence the future. If we do our jobs well, we will prepare our children to assume their future position as those who will prepare the generation which shall come after them. **If we fail in our job, then, we also set the conditions for the future.**”

During that episode, we discussed the instruction of Moses to the people:

(Deuteronomy 4:9-10)

[Moses instructed the people:] *9 However, be on your guard and be very careful not to forget the things your own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your heart as long as you live, but make them known to your children and to your children’s children, 10 that day you stood before the LORD, your God, at Horeb, when the LORD said to me: Assemble the people for me, that I may let them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me as long as they live in the land and may so teach their children.*

We also mentioned a similar instruction from Moses in Deuteronomy 11:18-21, which reads:

(Deuteronomy 11:18-21)

18 Therefore, take these words of mine into your heart and soul. Bind them on your arm as a sign, and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. 19 Teach them to your children, speaking of them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up, 20 and write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that, as long as the heavens are above the earth, you and your children may live on in the land which the LORD swore to your ancestors he would give them.

We also related what we are told in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, specifically paragraph 2223:

(CCC: 2223)

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery—the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the “material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.” Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them:

(Question 6: One of our objectives for this series is to help parents reflect upon how they may incorporate various means by which to inspire and enable the religious formation of their children. From your perspective of evangelizing to the youth of our day, what advice do you or your mother have for parents as they fulfill their role as the primary faith educators of their children?)

(Question 7: As I mentioned during my opening, I expressed that I wished I had known at your age what you already know. Of course, our knowledge is dependent upon to what we are exposed. While parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children, we all have a responsibility for our own learning. In other words, our parents can lead us to life giving water, but we all have our own responsibility for finding this water, and more importantly, making the decision to drink. What advice do you have for the youth of our day as they experience, learn, and live their faith?)

Kedon, Cheryl, we are really happy you were able to join us today and share your experiences of evangelization. We wish you all the best as you continue on your journey of faith and as you continue in your ministry of evangelization.

I would also like to recommend to our listeners to check out Kid Catholic's YouTube Channel. All you have to do is search for Kid-Catholic. To also learn how you can invite Kid Catholic to come speak at your school or parish, you can visit his web site at: <https://www.kid-catholic.com>.

Quotes:

– *Bishop Robert Barron*

Your faith will grow only in the measure that you give it away.

– *Father Thomas Williams*

Voltaire took Thomas Aquinas to task for having dared to say that he wished all the world were Christian, accusing him of being intolerant. But for Aquinas, that was the same as saying he wished all men to be happy.

– *Father Mike Schmitz*
You are a billboard for Christ.

– *Saint Thomas Aquinas*
Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know God will come to know God because they know you.

Final Thoughts:

As I mentioned during the opening to our discussion, I wish I had known in my youth that of which Kid Catholic speaks of today. Perhaps, it would have saved a lot of heart ache and pain during the course of my relationships and endeavors.

If you are a parent, I encourage you to reflect deeply upon the responsibility you have for the learning of your children. It is so important for you to be engaged and to help guide your children in their learning. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is a good education from which they will make future life choices, especially choices concerning their eternal life.

I would also like to point out, if you are a listener, like me, who did not receive religious formation during our youth, there is a lot out there from which we have the opportunity to learn. I was blessed to be both a catechist and a sponsor for my mother, when at the age of 75, she announced to me that she desired to become Catholic. The most important step for any of us is the decision to seek the love and blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

And for those of our listeners who are well catechized in the faith, I'm sure you can attest that our learning did not end with the sacrament of Confirmation, but that it is a life long journey. As we study the scripture of the Lord, as we talk with Him in prayer, and as we lead our daily lives, we have the opportunity to learn and live all the blessings which God offers through our living the fullness of faith presented to us through the Church Christ built upon Peter. (cf. Matthew 16:18-19)

Wrap Up: Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we turn our discussion to guiding our youth to living healthy life styles.

Let us conclude with a prayer:

Today, dear Lord, we would like to especially raise up in prayer the hearts of our youth, for they are our future and those who will pass the blessings of Your Holy Gospel to the generations to come. We pray, dear Lord, that as our youth continue to learn from their parents and proceed through their religious formation, You will grant them wisdom and understanding as well as help them to see all the blessings You offer through living the fullness of our Catholic faith. We pray too, dear Lord, that You will help our children discover the gifts and talents You have placed within them, and the purpose You desire they shall be put so they may share blessings with all who surround them and so that Your will may be done.

As always, dear Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to discuss the blessings of Your Holy Word. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us

to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Faith, Family, and Social Issues – Part V: Guiding Our Youth to Healthy Life Styles

Why Catholics Do What We Do References:

McNamara, Fr. Edward; (23 Sep 2014); “When to Wear a Dalmatic;” Zenit;
<https://zenit.org/articles/when-to-wear-a-dalmatic/>

Discussion References:

The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE); (9 Mar 2011); United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; <http://usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm>

USCCB; (May 2016); Catechism of the Catholic Church; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; <http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html>