



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Faith, Family, and Social Issues
Part VIII: Fathers and Family



Saint Joseph with Christ Child
Public Domain

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, which includes my lovely wife Sharon and special guest Dave Dinuzzo.

Dave DiNuzzo Sr. is a Catholic husband, father of 4, speaker, author, blogger, podcaster, evangelist, retreat master, and Theology teacher. He is the founder of TrueManhood Men’s Ministry which works to spread the truths of authentic masculinity in the image of Jesus Christ. Dave graduated with a Master’s degree in Theology concentrating in Evangelization and Catechesis from the Augustine Institute in Denver, CO and graduated from Benedictine College with a BA major in Business Administration concentrating in Finance and a minor in Theology.

Currently, Dave serves as Theology Professor at St. John’s Catholic School in Beloit, Kansas. Previously, he was the Director of Evangelization for his parish. Dave is an alumnus of the Catholic lay missionary organization FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) and the former Director of Catholic Campus Ministry at the United States Air Force Academy. Dave also served as the Director of Programming for a nationally-known men’s apostolate, and as Director of Young Adult & Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri.

Dave, welcome to our show.

On a sad note, Helen Hawkins is not with us today as she is with family and friends in mourning over the passing of her son, Dave. We hope everyone will join us in keeping the Hawkins family in our prayers.

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 and their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

Dear Lord, we pray especially today for the repose of the soul of David Hawkins and that Your hand of comfort shall rest upon all his family and friends.

We pray too, dear Lord, for Carol, Bruce, and Rick as they face surgery. We also pray for Diane, Carol, Andy and his wife, as well as Jack as they battle their medical conditions. We pray, dear Lord, that Your healing hand will rest upon them, as well as your hand of comfort, that You will guide the hearts and hands of their care givers, and that Your hand of comfort shall also rest upon those who love and care for them.

We also pray, dear Lord, that You will guide the heart of Peg as she engages her discernment.

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 would also like to ask for your assistance to help share our discussions. If you find an episode or series, which caused you to take a moment and think and you would like to share with family or friends, you only need to copy the URL of the show to which you are listening 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.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

We have, over the last several weeks, discussed the first of three sacraments by which a person becomes fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Baptism as we learned, is the first sacrament and a very important element of this process. If you are a Catholic parent, naturally you will

want to have your baby baptized as soon as possible. If you are a child, a teen, a young adult or an adult and believe you desire to be baptized, hallelujah!

As I began to reflect and write my thoughts for today, I realized that this is far more detailed than this 5 minute segment can handle. So at this point I will split up this discussion into two parts. Today we will talk about how to get a baby baptized. Next week we will talk about how others may be baptized into the Catholic Church.

If you are a practicing Catholic parent expecting a baby, perhaps you are already thinking about having the baby baptized. It is never too early to begin this journey. If you know your parish priest, make an appointment to visit with him about this. If you don't know him, then make an appointment to meet him and express your desire. He will guide you as to the process you will follow.

Every church of which we have ever been a part has basically the same process for this sacrament, but naturally, there are always different ways of doing things so it is important for you to find out what is required in your church.

For sure there will be some paper work to fill out. Isn't there always?! This paper work is simply a way for the Diocese to record this event. The information you will provide will be kept in safe keeping. Why? Because this baptism is sooo important that for every following sacrament, a copy of this baptismal record will be required. Something a lot of people don't know,----- on the front of the certificate is a pretty picture, the names of the baby, the parents, the Godparents, the priest, and the church. It will also have the date of the baptism. On the back of the certificate is space for filling in as each of the next sacraments are received. The church or Diocese will keep a running tab of your sacramental life as you progress through life.

There will be catechesis classes to attend as well. Why? Well, along the way, we learn lots of stuff. But do we learn the importance of special events as well as we should know? Not always. When you were baptized, your parents had to learn what this meant for you. Now it is time for you to learn what this means for your baby. Time and time again, it has been proven that parents are surprised by the things they learn. This is a wonderful way to expand your own knowledge of the faith.

You will select Godparents for your baby. This is a task that should never be taken lightly. This role of Godparent is most important and requires that these folks you pick for your child will be involved in the child's religious education and up bringing. But you will learn all of this in your classes.

Then, it is time to pick a date for this big event. Now the whole church is involved. People will be working behind the scenes to ensure that your day is as special as it should be.

When you arrive at the church on the selected date, you will be seated in pews reserved just for you and your family. This is a big deal! Following the process of your church, you will be guided to the font of baptism. The priest or deacon will speak the words of baptism: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. He will then pour the water of cleansing over the baby's head. A candle will be lit from the Pascal Candle. This is to

remind you that your baby has now crossed into the light of Christ and is a newly adopted child of God. You will be beaming with joy and the congregation will sing, clap, and rejoice with you as you glow in the new light that surrounds your tiny baby.

Today I have given a generalization of the process. As I said, every church will do things a bit differently, so get familiar with how it is done where you worship. I want to share a web site I found. This is from a church in Indiana. In their guidelines-for-baptism, they give quotes from the Canon Laws and the Catechism of the Catholic Church for which you will find the reasons for why we do what we do. Please check out this site which can be found in the reference section of the topic summary for this show.

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of Baptism, 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 124.

Discussion:

As we concluded our last discussion, I related that the words of Moses remain in my ears,

(Deuteronomy 4:9)

“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.”

I mentioned that I wish those words had registered with me before I had children, and perhaps, I may have done a better job as a father. Of course, we had family traditions passed to us from our parents, but as Sharon and I formed our family, we also formed our own traditions, which were also rooted in traditions passed to us through our faith.

Now, as we continue to prepare for Christmas to come, we reflect upon our traditions of faith. No two years are exactly the same, but our memories live on. Sharon and I are blessed to have shared family traditions with our children and we cherish all those moments as I know parents of other families do.

There are many efforts in play to disrupt and destroy the traditions of family and faith. History has shown that societies which allow this to happen pay a heavy price. As we prepare for our holidays, let us encourage our families to come together to share the blessings of faith along with the excitement of the season. Let us remember to give thanks to our Lord for the opportunities to come together as family and friends. Let us also remember, that as we share the blessings of love with one another during the holidays, as well as every day, we fulfill the greatest commandments where we are called to love God and one another as ourselves.

(Matthew 22:36-40)

Today, we are going to turn our discussion to an important figure within the family towards setting that tone, not just for Christmas, but for every day of the year. Of course, we must acknowledge that for a variety of reasons, not all families have this figure, just as not all families have a mother. We know this all too well with the passing of our daughter and the challenges our son-in-law faces as a single father raising a young daughter. He has done an excellent job over the past three years, along with some important help from his own parents, but when a parent is missing from the partnership of matrimony, there is no denying the hole it leaves. Our discussion today is not about those situations, but we do want to recognize them as well as our respect for those who must raise children, for whatever reason, without their partner in marriage.

Today, we want to talk about the role of fathers in relation to the responsibilities of their vocation along with the importance of the faith of the father in relation to the faith of the children.

(Question 1: We invited Dave to join us today because of his work with men, especially men who are fathers. *Dave, can you tell us a little about the focus and objective of your ministry?*)

(Question 2: The work your ministry performs is not about a simple subject and it is important work in relation to an extremely important element concerning the foundation of our society. *What was the inspiration for the formation of your ministry?*)

Jesus asked us, as we are told in Matthew 19:4-5,

(Matthew 19:4-5)

...Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

Jesus was referring to what we are told in Genesis 1:27 and 2:24.

(Genesis 1:27-28)

27 God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.

(Genesis 2:24)

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

We are later told in Ephesians 5:21, that husbands and wives should:

(Ephesians 5:21)

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Saint Paul continues in his instruction to the Ephesians by saying:

25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her 26 to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, 27 that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 So [also] husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.*

31 *“For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

So, we see that God created us male and female so that we might partner through the sacrament of matrimony so that we might grow as families. We are also told in Proverbs 22:6:

(Proverbs 22:6)

Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it.

And as I mentioned at the beginning of the show, parents are instructed:

(Deuteronomy 4:9)

“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.”

We are also reminded by Moses in Deuteronomy 11:18-21:

(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.

(Question 3: So, as we reflect on this scripture, we see that God made us male and female. He made us so that should we be joined through the sacrament of matrimony, we will love and take care of one another, but we also told that we have a responsibility of teach our children, especially in regards to the ways of the Lord. **What are some means by which secular society distracts men from what God asks of them?)**

- Power
- Money
- Sex
- Possessions
(TrueManHood)

(Question 4: As we have been discussing, the vocation of fatherhood carries with it many responsibilities to not only love their children, but raise them, with the values of God, so that the children are prepared for the day they must discern their own vocations and assume their own role in adulthood. If we do this job well, our children are well prepared to assume their position in adulthood. If we do not, we leave them vulnerable to the one who would deceive them and lure them away from their faith and what God asks of them. **In what ways do you help men understand the vocation of fatherhood?)**

- Role as a Christian
- Role as a husband
- Role as a father
- Role in community

In an article entitled, “If Dad Takes Faith in God Seriously, So Will His Children;” Father Richard Heilman writes:

In short, **if a father does not go to church – no matter how faithful his wife’s devotions – only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper.** If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). One of the reasons suggested for this distinction is that children tend to take their cues about domestic life from Mom while their conceptions of the world outside come from Dad. **If Dad takes faith in God seriously then the message to their children is that God should be taken seriously.** (Heilman)

(Question 5: Not every man becomes a father. The acceptance of this vocation should not be by accident, but should be a conscious decision and in response to God's call to their heart. **What advice do you have for men as they discern the vocation of husband and father?)**

- Reflect upon our knowledge of faith
- Reflect on our opportunities to discuss with our children's
- Reflect on our opportunities to be examples for our children
- Reflect on our opportunities to live our faith with our children

(Question 6: Through your ministry, you host retreats, have pod casts, and you go to schools, parishes, and events to speak. **How can our listeners learn more about your ministry and engage your services?)**

<http://www.truemanhood.com>

Quotes:

– *Saint John Paul II*

Yes, the civilization of love is possible; it is not a utopia. But it is only possible by a constant

and ready reference to the "Father from whom all fatherhood and motherhood on earth is named," from whom every human family comes.

– *Saint John Paul II*

Original sin is not only the violation of a positive command ... but ... attempts ... to abolish fatherhood, destroying its rays which permeate the created world, placing in doubt the truth about God who is Love and leaving man with only a sense of the master-slave relationship.

– *Saint John Paul II*

In the life of husband and wife together, fatherhood and motherhood represent such a sublime "novelty" and richness as can only be approached "on one's knees".

– *Father Richard Heilman*

If Dad takes faith in God seriously then the message to their children is that God should be taken seriously.

– *St. Catherine of Sienna*

If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!

Final Thoughts:

As I was growing up, my father encouraged me according to three priorities; education, music and art, and sports. He looked at education as the most important, for knowledge enables us to make a living and provide for our families. He looked at music and art, not only to exercise the mind, but also to enable creativity and relaxation. Finally, he saw sports as a means to exercise the body, but also as a means to learn about competition and teamwork.

I believe my father worked hard to prepare me for adulthood, but looking back, there was an area which I now realize was lacking, and that was matters of faith. Indeed, I would not take away from my father's priorities, but at the top of the list, I would put, "faith in God."

Of course, my father could not pass on what he himself did not know. I cannot blame him, for he could not receive what his father did not pass on to him. In hind sight, I learned about the importance of faith awful late in the ballgame. Looking back, there is so much more I should have done for my children. Still, they were lucky to have a mother who did comprehend the importance of faith and taught them what I could not. She prayed with them where I did not.

Yes, I took my children to Mass, but I could have been a much better father had I understood the faith as I understand it now. I could have spent more time talking with them about their own understanding. I could have prayed with them. I could have done more with them in the traditions of the faith, especially during the periods of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Indeed, not only could I have been a much better father for them, in the process, I could have been a much better person. It brings sorrow to my heart that I was not.

I say this, not that I can change the past for myself, but perhaps so someone else will not make the mistakes I made through not only my ignorance of what God asks of us and the

responsibilities to which God calls us, but the times of blessing not only lost to me, but also to my children.

I pray that anyone who hears these words will take a moment and ask themselves: Could I know my faith better? Could I teach my faith to my children better? Could I live my faith better? Could I be a better example to my children as God calls me to be? Whether we do anything about the answers is a decision of the heart. And if you are someone like me who lost so much time to the secular world, we cannot undo our past, but we still have our future. Each day, we have the opportunity to ask ourselves, “What gifts and talents has God given me and to what purpose does He desire that they shall be put?” As we discern the answer, we have the opportunity to turn to a more excellent way in the same fashion, to which we are encouraged in 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 as we are instructed as to the gifts of the Spirit and the blessings of love.

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 the twilight of our years.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to open and discuss 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 X: Twilight of our Years

Why Catholics Do What We Do References:

Annunciation Catholic Parish; (2019); “Guidelines for Baptism In the Roman Catholic Church;”
Annunciation Catholic Parish; <https://www.annunciationevv.org/Guidelines-for-Baptism>

Discussion References:

Heilman, Fr. Richard; (19 Jun 2016); “If Dad Takes Faith in God Seriously, So Will His Children;”
Roman Catholic Man; <https://www.romancatholicman.com/dad-takes-faith-god-seriously-will-children/>

TrueManHood; (2017); “Fighting Cultural Manliness;”
<http://www.truemanhood.com/what-we-do/resources/fighting-cultural-manliness>

The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE); (9 Mar 2011); United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; <http://uscgb.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>