

CHILDREN

John Paul Speaks

*Notable quotations from Pope John Paul II and
official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church*

A MESSAGE OF LIFE AND HOPE

Children ... are *the hope that continually blossoms*, a project that starts ever anew, the future that opens without ceasing. They represent the flowering of married love, which is found and strengthened in them. At their birth they bring a *message of life*.

CHILDREN ASK QUESTIONS

Do not children themselves *in a way continually “examine” their parents?* ... It is as if *a question* were inscribed in their whole existence, ... which we could put into questions like these: Mama, papa, do you love me? Am I really a gift for you? Do you accept me for what I am? Do you always try to do what is really best for me?

ARE CHILDREN A THREAT OR A GIFT?

In many regions, and paradoxically right in the more prosperous countries, bringing children into the world *has become a decision taken with great hesitation*... It could be said that at times children are seen *as more of a threat than a gift*.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE COUNTING ON YOU

No one knows as you do, dear parents, how essential it is for children to be able to count on you, on both of you — fathers and mothers — *in the complementarity of your gifts*. No, it is not a step forward for civilized society to support trends that obscure this elementary truth and even demand to be legally recognized.

“NECESSARY GRACE”

Be certain of this, Christian spouses, the sacrament of Matrimony assures you of the necessary grace to persevere in the mutual love that your children need as much as bread.

ALL PARENTS ARE TEACHERS

You cannot avoid *the essential question about your mission as teachers*. Having given life to your children, you are also obliged to accompany them, in a way appropriate for their age, in their directions and life-decisions, while being concerned for all their rights.

GUARD THE CHILDREN

We must be on guard so that *the good of the child is always given priority*: beginning with the moment that the child is desired.

“ABSURD MENTALITY”

The tendency to use morally unacceptable reproductive practices reveals the absurd mentality of a “right *to* a child”, which has replaced the due recognition of the “right *of* a child” to be born and later to grow in a fully human way.

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