



Discipleship and Family Life

By Fanny Pedraza

A disciple is one who learns from a teacher. Information, practical things, behaviors, a science or a doctrine may be learned.

The true disciple usually follows the teachings, method or opinions of his or her teacher throughout life. Today the voices of my teachers still resound in what I do, in what I say, and in what I write.

When I think about my parents and older siblings, I also consider them to have been my teachers, and I ask myself: Did the religious Sisters reinforce what I learned from my family or vice versa?

Life is the best school, the home the best classroom, and the parents the most effective teachers — not because of their expertise in a determined subject, but because the family is the first place where we develop the capacity to love God and other human beings. Home is where Christian values are spontaneously passed from one generation to the next.

In their teaching, my parents did not have a schedule nor did they follow a determined curriculum. The curriculum was dictated by daily activities such as getting up, sharing meals, and helping around the house, playing and going to bed. These offered topics for each lesson they taught us. As they faced life situations at home or work, during fun or serious activities, when they narrated stories to us, and when they practiced the Golden Rule, the attitudes they promoted were ways in which the Word took flesh in them and in which they taught their children to love and live it.

I have made an effort to make the Word penetrate in the faith life and spirit of my children in a subtle but deep way.

I know that it will constitute the best material for their lessons when, still disciples, they assume their own roles as teachers.

Let us thank God when our life is enlightened and our spirit is strengthened by our parents' voices and actions. They not only help us to be followers of Christ, but they also teach us the message to communicate and how to do it. They make us aware that no matter what our age, we never stop learning that discipleship is for life.

For personal reflection

Read Psalm 1:5,7-9; Ephesians 6:1-4 - Deuteronomy 4:9,10 6:7-9; 2 Timothy 3:15.

How do these Scripture verses resound with your role as son or daughter and husband or wife?

To share with your family

Set time for fun and fellowship with the members of your family and share:

What examples of mutual love, prayer and piety, charity and service should be present and be shared in Christian families?

Which of those are the most instilled and promoted in their home?

How do they practice the teachings and examples they receive at home as they respond to everyday family situations, at work, in the school and in the society in which they live?

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