



First Monday newsletter

March 2016

Children & Childhood

Fr Stephen Wang writes:

Children are an extraordinary gift. Perhaps you hoped for a child. Perhaps this one came unexpectedly.

Either way, this unique person is entrusted to you, to your love and care. On the one hand, this child is yours - with your genes, probably your surname, many of your looks and mannerisms. On the other hand, this child is completely unique - with their own personality, their own needs and interests, their own likes and dislikes.

And they are a child of God – loved by God, made in his image, close to him now, and destined for a life with him for all eternity.

Others say:

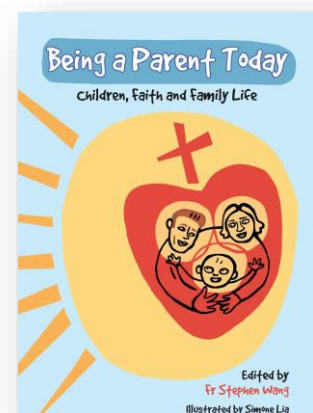
- ‘Give them love and security, and make your home a place where they always feel safe and welcome. But don’t be possessive. Give them freedom as well, and when the time comes, when they are older, let them go – knowing that they will come back if you don’t put pressure on them.’

Continue...



Ten Ten produce a newsletter for parents on the First Monday of every month.

The text on the left is taken from the booklet which was given as a free gift to all parents who attended one of our sessions in schools. In the booklet, Fr. Stephen Wang gathers the thoughts of parents and others on “Being a Parent Today: Children, Faith and Family Life.”



Children & Childhood

- ‘You want them to grow and learn, but you can’t force them to be a person that they are not. They are already a unique person! They have their own strengths and weaknesses, their own hopes and fears – which all need respecting. It’s not good to project your own idea of what you want yourself to be like on to them.’

- ‘There is that phrase: You can’t put an old head on new shoulders. So we shouldn’t worry if our children are childish, or if it takes them time to learn something and to grow. It’s unhelpful to have impossibly high expectations of them. They are a wonderful work in progress!’

- They need you to be parents and not friends or elder siblings. I find that if I am trustworthy, then the children will trust me. And I try to trust them. And if they fail or break that trust, I try to talk to them, to hold them to account, and give them a way of earning the trust again. I’m teaching them, in other words, to be responsible.’

- ‘You need to respect your children’s privacy, especially as they get older – their space, their diary, etc. And not to betray them by gossiping about them or telling all their mistakes and bad habits to others.’

- ‘Don’t compare your children with each other. Each one is unique. Try to be fair in what you give them. Treat them equally, and never suggest you have favourites. Try to spend time with each one individually now and then.’

- ‘We keep a diary of our children’s growing up.’



You think you will remember all the lovely details, but you won’t. And if you have more than one child the memories will blend together. For example, when they first did this, or when you talked to them about that. It’s partly practical: Have I told the third child how to be brave when things are difficult or how to deal with disappointment, etc?’

- ‘I don’t think you should spoil them with too many gifts or possessions. They love receiving gifts, but often they have too many to play with, and soon get bored of them. I have to be strong about telling relations and friends not to spoil them either. The adult desire to give is usually greater than the child’s ability to receive!’

- ‘Don’t lie to them. Don’t pretend things are always brilliant, or they will cease to believe you. Give loving, honest appraisals when it will be helpful.’

- ‘Childhood is fleeting, enjoy it while you can.’



CTS Book of the Month

EFFECTIVE PARENTING

Children are an extraordinary gift. Perhaps you hoped for a child. Perhaps this one came unexpectedly. A practical handbook, packed with all the advice, guidance and common sense you need on your journey as a parent.

While bringing up children is a great responsibility, many problems can be overcome through simple solutions.

PRICE: £2.50

Ten:Ten

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Ten Ten Theatre is a professional theatre company working in schools, churches, prisons, care homes, within communities and in theatres throughout the UK. It is part of Ten Ten, a national Catholic educational charity.

We are a family-run independent organisation based in North London.

Mass is celebrated for the intentions of the children and parents we meet in schools on the First Monday of every month.



To make a donation to The Ten Ten Charitable Trust, please [click here](#).