

JUBILEE OF MERCY



First Monday newsletter

December 2015

Failure & Forgiveness

Fr Stephen Wang writes:

Everyone makes mistakes – both parents and children. Everyone has to struggle with their own weaknesses.

And in a family your weaknesses and failures become very exposed, and affect others very directly, especially when people are tired or stressed.

At the end of the day, it's good to have a moment of quiet to thank God that you have been able to get through the day in one piece. You can say sorry to him for anything you have done wrong. And ask him to look after your family in a way that you can't. It's a huge consolation to know that you can find forgiveness and help from God. If you are a Catholic, why not try to go to confession every few weeks. This is not meant to be a burden, it is a way of letting go of your burdens and handing them over to God.

Others say:

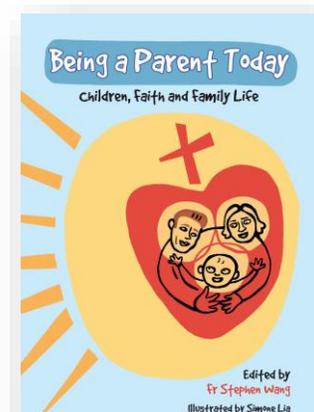
- 'Be patient and compassionate with your children, whatever mistakes they make. Of course you may need to correct them sometimes, but never condemn

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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."



Failure & Forgiveness

them. Always let them know that you love them.'

- 'I don't think we should pretend that every relationship will be easy. Children need help to understand that they will not always like or get on with every person, and other people may not always like them. This is not the end of the world! It doesn't mean that the children are worthless, just that the other people have not come to appreciate them yet.'

- 'If the children do something wrong, we simply ask them to say sorry. If you start this at a young age it will become a habit, and this habit will help them to accept their weaknesses and move on from them quickly. And when the children do say sorry for something, let them know that they are forgiven, and encourage them. You have to actually put it into words! "Don't worry. It's okay. You can start again."'

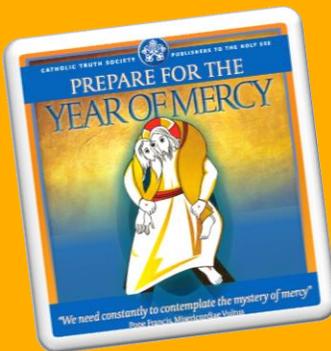
- 'If someone in the family hurts you or lets you down, it's so easy to nurse a grudge and get angry. If it is a small thing, I try to forgive them in my heart, and simply let it go. If it's a big thing, I try to talk about it, to help them know how I feel, and to help them see what is wrong. I think it's better to seek solutions and move forward instead of letting things fester.'

- 'Don't humiliate your children. Even if you have to correct them, don't use phrases that will harm them, like 'I hate you', or 'You're useless'. And I wouldn't tease them too much, in case they become self-conscious about their weaknesses or peculiarities.'



- 'If you do something wrong that affects your children, then say sorry to them. Parents are human! If necessary, explain what happened and admit your weaknesses in an un-defensive way. For example, 'I shouldn't have said that . . . I was tired and lost my temper . . .' Be humble and honest, but don't burden your children with your own adult problems by telling them too much.'

- 'There is a huge, subconscious pressure on us parents all the time. But don't worry or feel guilty because you are not a perfect parent. There is no such thing! And don't give in to the fantasy that all the other parents around you are doing everything perfectly. It's simply not true. You just have to do the best you can, in circumstances that are often difficult.'



CTS Book of the Month

THE YEAR OF MERCY

This month, instead of directing you to one single book, we are highlighting the range of resources which the CTS has produced for The Year of Mercy, which begins on Tuesday 8 December.

Here you will find books for adults and children which may help you practically and spiritually in this Extraordinary Year established by Pope Francis.

[VIEW YEAR OF MERCY CATALOGUE](#)



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.

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