

The Principal's Pen  
Dr. Anthony F. Merante

### **“Are You a Brave Parent?”**

Think about this: tough decisions, unconditional love, guidance, food, shelter, objectivity, honesty, and integrity. This is parenting, but what does being a brave parent mean? When your children sit down and voice their opinions respectfully, you listen. Are you able to understand that you are not your child's best friend - at least not until they graduate from high school? So, what does being a brave parent look like?

- The brave parent is affirmative. “Yes, I know you are 16, but you are still going to go to Mass. No, you do not have to go to the same one I go to; however, you are going to go. This is not negotiable.”
- The brave parent is a detective. How about looking under your child's mattress? In their closet? In their dresser drawers - you know, the drawers of the dresser and the mattress that you bought and own? Did you say they need privacy? Yes, to go to the bathroom, possibly on the phone, but total home privacy? Sorry. If you look through their room and find something they should not have, are you going to ignore it and think, *Well, I'll ignore this; it is private*. Shouldn't you do the best you can to ensure that while your child is living in your house that you continue to be a responsible parent, a brave parent, and continue to help guide and teach them with God's help? That doesn't ever stop, does it?
- The brave parent is an electronic sleuth. How about their Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter accounts, or texts? What if I told you that in every school I have been in, children have posted inappropriate or disrespectful comments toward others? I asked in another article, do you know their Password? Were you brave enough to ask? To look?

It isn't easy being a brave parent, but are you going to risk not being one?

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