



Immaculate Conception Catholic School

Parent Witness Statement

2019-2020

One of the blessings of marriage is bringing forth new life. God entrusts children to parents who have a primary right and duty to educate their children in the practice of the faith. Parents carry out this responsibility by creating a home full of love, forgiveness, respect and fidelity. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one honors God and learns moral values.

In the rite of the Sacrament of Baptism, parents receive the following call from God to evangelize their children:

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training her (him) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring her (him) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor...You will be the first teachers of your child in the ways of the faith. May you be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what you say or do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No wonder, then, that the Church understands the home to be the domestic church. It is in the intimate environment of the family that parents are, by word and example, the first heralds of the faith with respect to their children. This environment is enhanced and deepened through the parish Eucharistic community that is the heart of the spiritual life for Christian families.

Catholic schools and parish religious education programs are in partnership with the family in proclaiming and witnessing to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. They assist parents in fulfilling their responsibility as the primary religious educators of their children. This partnership works best when parents respect the beliefs of the Church and live lives in a manner that reflect these beliefs. If parents reject the beliefs of the Church or live lives in conflict with these teachings, catechizing young people becomes very difficult.

Aware, then, of the dignity of this holy parental call, and with a reverent awe for that responsibility which is mine, I commit myself to be, in word and example, the first and best teacher of my children in the faith. Practically, this means I will:

- Participate consistently and actively in the Sunday Eucharist with my family, especially at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- Actively commit to the parish stewardship program in terms of time, talent and treasure
- Speak to my children about the things of God and make prayer an integral and important part of the environment of our home
- Participate and cooperate, as Immaculate Conception Catholic School requests, in the religious education and especially the sacramental preparation of my children
- Accept my responsibility to support the moral teachings of the Catholic faith, by words and example, in order not to contradict in my home what is proclaimed in the school
- Teach my children, by word and example, to have a love and concern for the needs of others, especially the poor
- Do my fair share in financially supporting Immaculate Conception Catholic School and parish
- Cooperate with the school in the education of my child and support the school's policies and handbook

Signature of the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Student's Name(s) _____