

From the desk of Fr. Stimpson:

October 31, 2021

Dear Friends,

With you, I welcome back Fr. Michael Adrie, SMA, as he preaches a mission appeal for the work of his religious community this weekend. World Mission Sunday is in October and parishes around the world join in to support the work of missionaries who spread the Gospel throughout the world. The Society of African Missionaries has been serving in the diocese of Peoria for 25 years and many of their priests have served in our local parishes. The order was founded in 1856 by the missionary Bishop Marion de Bresillac of France. The first work of the order was to evangelize and to empower indigenous peoples to establish their own local church. One aspect of vocation formation was to form local clergy to become diocesan priests for their home territory. Only in the 1980's did this change when the majority European missionaries started to allow African clergy to join the SMAs in order to re-evangelize Europe and North America (and oh how we need it). Fr. Michael was one of the first Ghanaians ordained to the SMA order and he has served around the world, off and on he has served in the USA since the late 90's. Fr. Michael and Fr. Joseph are both SMA priests and please join me in expressing gratitude for their ministry with us but also to support their missionary work to spread the Gospel.

A second topic of popular interest in the past several weeks due to headlines from the Virginia Governor race is the role of parents in education. What does the Catholic Church teach about the role of parents in education?

Well, first of all, the Catholic Church teaches that parents are the "primary educators of their children" it is their "right and responsibility"...but also when I say "the Catholic Church teaches," I am also NOT saying that this is a religious teaching based on divine revelation. That parents are the primary educators of children is based on Natural Law, it is innate to creation and is evident to all people of right reason regardless of religious affiliation.

Some relevant quotes of Catholic Social Teaching for your further interest include...

"The right and duty of parents to give education is essential, since it is connected with the transmission of human life; it is original and primary with regard to the educational role of others, on account of the uniqueness of the loving relationship between parents and children; and it is irreplaceable and inalienable, and therefore incapable of being entirely delegated to others or usurped by others." (*Familiaris Consortio*, #36)

"As it is the parents who have given life to their children on them lies the gravest obligation of educating their family. They must therefore be recognized as being primarily and principally responsible for their education. The role of the parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." (*Gravissimum Educationis*, #3)

"Parents must organize to resist efforts by the State, the media or population control groups that present erroneous models of sex education which corrupt their children". (The Second International Theological Pastoral Congress at the Second World Meeting of the Holy Father with Families, *The Family: Gift, Promise, and Hope for Humanity*, October 3, 1997, #3.9)

Peace,  
Father