

Me first!

Today's children are taught a 'self-first' philosophy that produces a covetous, proud, disobedient, unthankful and unholy generation. Paul warned that this would be a sign of the last days, which are described as "perilous" (2 Tim. 3:1-5). The meaning of this word is 'hard to bear, difficult, grievous and fierce'. There has never been a more needful time to educate our children with godly principles for daily living.

How can parents and grandparents help children to be selfless? Ecclesial life presents many opportunities to serve and consider others in their varied needs. Maybe our children are able to make some biscuits and deliver them to an elderly brother or sister. They could pick some home-grown flowers, fruit or vegetables and give them to someone who is sick. Simple cards are enjoyable to make and cheer the spirit.

How do our children and teenagers behave at fraternal suppers and meals? Do we as parents take note, or are we so absorbed in conversation that we leave them to their own devices? Are they the first to get to the food and take as much as they can, or have they been taught to think of others, particularly the elderly, and allow them to be served first? Sometimes we see children behaving as if they have not eaten all day! Is this really the spirit our children should possess? Is this helping them to develop thankfulness and thoughtfulness in their lives?

Children do not naturally learn to consider others; they must be taught and encouraged by wise parents. The ecclesial functions provide opportunities to teach our children to honour God by honouring others. Let us not miss these opportunities to teach our children diligently, when we sit in our house, when we walk by the way, when we lie down and when we rise up, so that we may truly say, "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Josh. 24:15).

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