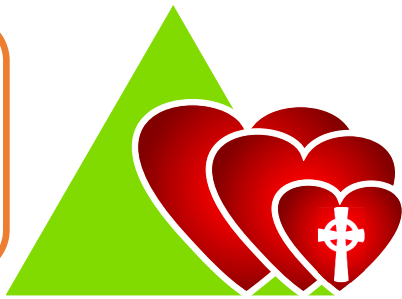


Challenge #2
Going Beyond Independence to Interdependence



Teaching the Way of Love

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Please Pray That

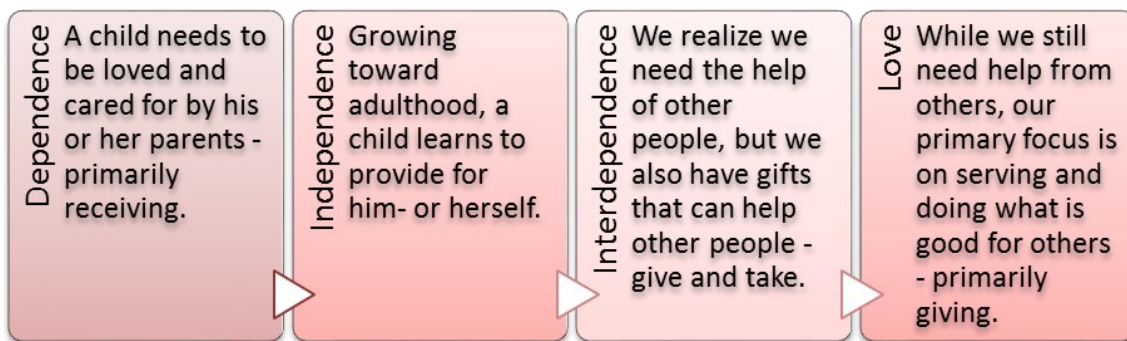
- The Holy Spirit will speak clearly at the synod on the family in Rome.
- Our children will grow up with hearts of love and service.
- Parents will find meaningful ways to build community in their families.
- Our beloved dead may experience the mercy of Jesus, and see him face-to-face.
- Our culture may come to respect God's beautiful plan for love and marriage.

Laying the Foundation for Love by Teaching Interdependence

Our schools and our culture – especially in America, the land of “Rugged Individualism” – put a lot of emphasis on independence. Do your own work. Take responsibility for your actions. Work hard, get a job, make your own way in the world.

Teaching children to become independent is good. It means teaching them virtues like responsibility, being true to one’s word, and making wise use of your time. Most parents naturally do a lot to encourage these lessons of independence.

But for the Catholic parent who wants his or her child to follow Jesus, independence cannot be the final goal of parenting. We can embrace and teach the virtues that independence brings. But in the end our goal is to teach our children how to love. To do that, we need to stretch beyond independence to interdependence.



Interdependence is the recognition that while we can provide for ourselves, we are still better off with the help of others. But we also have abilities and resources that can be used to help others. Interdependence goes beyond dependence because we become aware of our ability to provide. But it also goes beyond independence because it recognizes that our ability can be used to help others and to cooperate with others for everyone’s benefit.

Because humanity passes by way of the family...

Here is your October Challenge

Challenge #2 *Encourage Interdependence Through Home Chores*

This month's challenge will help you build your family into a "community of persons." Here's what you do:

1. Visit <http://www.twl4parents.com/category/expect-good-behavior/> for a list of chores and recommended ages.
2. Download the challenge worksheet at <http://goo.gl/yYVnAe>
3. The worksheet will ask you to assign chores to each of your children. **But the most important part of the challenge is filling in the column describing how the chore contributes to the good of the family.**
4. After you fill out this chart, post it on the wall or refrigerator. Ask the child to read the explanation for his or her assigned task before the task is completed. At the end of the week, have a table conversation about how each child contributed that week to the good of the family.

Bonus points: talk with your children about what unique skills they bring to the family and find a way for each child to contribute in a way that uses that child's particular skills. Not every chore needs to correlate with a skill. But to have at least one special way that the child can contribute shows him or her how to use God's gifts to serve others.)



Are you ready to meet this month's challenge? Give it a try! You'll find that this activity not only improves attitudes toward chores, but also improves the sense of true community within your family. This challenge is just a small part of good Catholic parenting. Visit www.twl4parents.com for more strategies that will help you become the best parent you can be. And for the best systematic approach to parenting, consider purchasing the Teaching the Way of Love program, which can be found at the same website.

This article series is brought to you by Alice Heinzen and Jeff Arrowood, authors of the Teaching the Way of Love home study series for parents. Find out more at www.twl4parents.com/teaching-the-way-of-love.

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