



A scene from Ten Ten's family drama, Called Up

First Monday newsletter

April 2016

Parenting & Family Life

Fr Stephen Wang writes:

Parenting is a lifelong vocation. You are doing one of the most important things in the world, and there is no one who can do it for your family as well as you.

Don't waste time comparing yourself to other parents, or comparing your children to other children. God has given these unique human beings to you – and he knows what he's doing.

No child, in God's eyes, is an accident. You can be grateful for your children, even when things are tough. Yes, you can seek advice from friends, family, and from books like this. But then make your own decisions and trust your instincts. Don't be alarmed when other parents do things differently from you. You know your child and yourself better than anyone else.

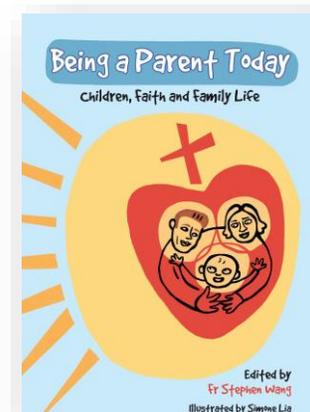
Once you have decided on a certain path, be confident about that, and don't kill yourself worrying about whether you have made the perfect decision or not. It may not be perfect, but at least it will help you to go forward, instead of being paralysed.

Continue...



Ten Ten produce a newsletter for parents on the First Monday of every month.

The text on the left is taken from the booklet which was given as a free gift to all parents who attended one of our sessions in schools. In the booklet, Fr. Stephen Wang gathers the thoughts of parents and others on "Being a Parent Today: Children, Faith and Family Life."



Parenting & Family Life

Others say:

- 'Believe in your children. Have faith in them, love them, and support them.'

- 'You can be yourself with your children even if you have to hide some of your emotions or worries in order to protect them. Don't have a different 'voice' for them!'

- 'You have to learn to live with imperfection. I follow 'the muddling along theory of parenting': Try one thing. Then try another. Keep trying. Hang in there. Do your best. Don't hate yourself because you are not Supermum or Superdad. And if things go wrong, admit this, humbly.'

- 'Teach children to be the kind of people you hope they will be: loving, generous, forgiving, kind, helpful, brave, creative . . . It won't just happen. They need to learn about these 'virtues', and be encouraged to develop them. Above all, avoid negativity and complaining. If you yourself are happy and hopeful, it will help the children to be happy and hopeful.'

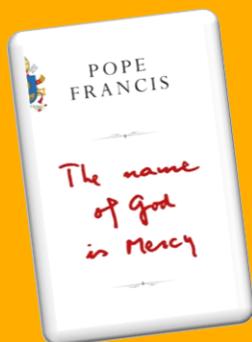
- 'It's so easy to conform, or to worry what others are thinking all the time. I'd say: Don't be afraid to be different, to think outside the box. Not to be different for its own sake, but because you feel it could be really important for your family. And if other families are doing something you believe is wrong or harmful, don't get sucked into joining them, through peer pressure or the nagging of your children. Be kind but firm, and if necessary explain why to the children.'



- 'Hang in there when times are hard. You will look back and see that it was all worth it.'

- 'I always try to pray about new and difficult situations. God always helps those who ask, even if it is in quiet and unexpected ways. As parents we will always need God's help: the wisdom to make good decisions, and the generosity to keep loving.'

- 'In your personal and professional decisions, test them by the effect they will have on your family. It's true that you need personal space, and you should not be defined only in terms of being a parent. But your family and children should always be your first priority, and if something you are choosing harms them or makes life harder for them, you should be honest about this. Be careful not to put all your time and emotional energy into things outside the family.'



CTS Book of the Month

THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY

The Name of God is Mercy, Pope Francis' exploration on the universal theme of mercy, is a spiritual inspiration to both followers of Christianity and non- Christians around the world.

Drawing on his own experience as a priest and shepherd, Pope Francis discusses mercy, a subject of central importance in his religious teaching and testimony.

PRICE: £13.50



Ten Ten Theatre is a professional theatre company working in schools, churches, prisons, care homes, within communities and in theatres throughout the UK. It is part of Ten Ten, a national Catholic educational charity.

We are a family-run independent organisation based in North London.

Mass is celebrated for the intentions of the children and parents we meet in schools on the First Monday of every month.

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