



Newsletter – February 2023

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We are Christians above all because God is with us and we choose to be with him

Introduction

Christians have just celebrated Christmas and in Singapore we are soon going to be celebrating the Lunar New Year. If you look at the calendar for the year it is strewn with various communal or religious events that we celebrate in Singapore, in which we are involved directly or indirectly. Families with primary school going children have their own routines and challenges. Young families have their own challenges from choosing a pre-school for their children to selecting a primary school or the first secondary school for those who have graduated from primary to secondary school. Without going further one can reflect on the various celebrations, joy and challenges that we as a family go through. In this journey of life we have to make choices that may have lasting effects on our families and us, as parents. Before we make our choices what do we hold them up against?

See

Let us take the situation of education for our child. These could start with infant care, early childhood education right up to when they enter primary school. That means close to six of their first years. For so many years now many parents have been taking many steps to be in a position to get their children into schools with a history of producing good academic results, going as far as choosing and buying homes close to these schools in the hope that their children would get into one of these schools and come out with top results and then get into a similar secondary school and graduate with top results and then get into a university of their choice. All the while parents actively participate in this endeavour not knowing where this will all lead to but hoping for a good education and a bright future for their children. During these years these children are moulded and formed to the ways of the world because they spend most of their time in the programmes of the institutions they are educated in, to the detriment of their Christian values and sense of Christian justice. During their formative years these children are often in a position where they have to forgo catechism classes because they have tuition or school programmes. I have personal experience of this when I was involved in the catechism programme of my church. Some even opt to go for catechism

class at a church where the timings do not clash with their school activity. Catechism class in church is even treated as optional by many Catholic parents considering it as something that comes after their academic education, going through the motion until they graduate. Few years after these children have graduated they are found to be not active in church or have values that are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church and indifferent to Christian values and in some cases intolerable at home. Then, what happens is that parents want the Church to have programmes for the youth. After years of outsourcing their responsibility now they want to outsource it to the church.

A good education is important for our children and their careers. However, a good Christian upbringing is much more essential for all our children.

Causes

1. Why are we in this scenario?
2. Where are we in this scenario now?
3. What are the early signs that all is not well?

Consequences

1. In the above reality, is the direction of education taken by parents beneficial to their children?
2. What are the consequences of this approach to education for the parents themselves?

Judge

1. What is our responsibility as parents?
2. Have we been deceived by the ways of the world or have we exchanged our values for that of this world?
3. Have we made compromises to the detriment of our Christian values?
4. Is this water under the bridge for all of us?

Act

1. What action would I take if confronted with these choices?
2. Is there something I can do to help our community of the future and pass on the benefits of my experiences to others?
3. How can we as a Movement educate parents to correct the attitudes of parents in the above reality?

Article contributed by Basil

“To be wise you must first have reverence for the Lord. If you know the Holy One, you have understanding.” Proverbs 9:10



NEWS

1. CFSM Annual Review & Planning for 2023 was held from 13 January 2023 to 15 January 2023.
 2. The next CFSM Exco meeting is on 7 February 2023 at 8pm at OLPS.
 3. Father Andre Christophe will be celebrating his 93rd birthday on 19 February 2023.
 4. CFSM Annual General Meeting will be held on 4 March 2023 from 2pm to 5pm. Venue to be determined soon.
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