



Newsletter – February 2024

CFSM Singapore

2 Highland Road, #03-12

Singapore 549102

Website: <http://www.cfsm.org.sg>

Contact email: cfsmsg@gmail.com

CHILDREN AND THEIR VOCATIONS

SEE

Some parents expect their children to pursue the vocation for which they study in the University of his/her choice or in the respective Polytechnic. Therefore, for example, it comes as a shock to the some parents when their son or daughter refuses to practice law after getting a law degree from the Faculty of Law in the National University of Singapore.

To put it in perspective, times have changed and parents' expectations of their children whether it is in education or marriage have also changed. The older generation may have felt the need to place the wishes of their parents first before their own individual preferences. However, now the trend seems to be that younger parents have to give way to their children who wish to explore the various career paths that they see in front of them.

The courses in the various higher institutions of learning that are available for the Millennials and Gen Z have also been modified and increased. Some of the applicants are unable to decide on a particular course of study because there are more than two choices. Some start on one and then switch to another which they find more attractive.

Singapore Economy has changed over the years too. With the presence of the Gig Economy, some young people also question the need for a degree or diploma to achieve success in their lives. They are of the view that they can "come up" in life without a degree or diploma. Is it always true? The basic rule remains which is to get a good job that pays a reasonable salary to make sure that the worker not only meets his/her monthly expenditure but also some monies are saved for rainy days. (Yes, more needs arise if you have your own home and get married!).

However, what is heart-breaking is when parents borrow huge sums of money to finance their children's education but the children chooses a different course midway and thwart their agreed plan. Such parents suffer the pain silently and let their children have the day.

The Reality is that the Millennial and Gen Z generation are willing to face the challenges of the very modern Singapore Economy. They put aside matters such as marriage, loyalty to their homeland, preference to stay close their parents, etc. What "modern" parents can do is to set the parameters and not to depend on their children for income and support. But this is more easily said than done.

Nevertheless, we as Catholics, need to constantly remind ourselves and our children to rely on the Word of God especially the gospel values. If we do so, both parents and their children will become winners in God's eyes. Our ultimate goal is to please our Lord God in all we do and say.

- What are the causes of the above reality?
- What are the consequences?
- Are parents' consultation and advice still a necessary factor before young children make their career choices?
- Are career choices made solely on the potential income and personal rewards?

JUDGE

Personal Reflection

- How do I feel about the above reality and why do I feel that way?
- Am I a cause for my children's decisions in their careers? Can I influence them?

Christian Reflection

- What do we know from the Bible about planning for our future and what plans God has for us?
- Do we trust in the Lord to guide us to be the best we can be in serving others and living our Christian values?
- What should we do when our Christian values collide with our children's career choices?

ACT

- How can I be aware of God's plan for me?
- Can I commit to sharing with my children the value of work, its benefits which are not solely based on economic and personal gains?

Article contributed by Gabriel Sebastian